

Iran says Briton confessed to spying

LONDON (R) — Iran's senior envoy to Britain said Monday that a British businessman held in Tehran on spying charges has confessed to spying for his country in a television interview to be broadcast soon. The businessman, 51-year-old Roger Cooper, was arrested in Tehran last December while on business there for McDermott International, an American engineering company in Dubai. Iran announced his arrest and the espionage charges for the first time earlier this month. "He has confessed it," Iran's new charge d'affaires in London, Akhondzadeh Basti, told a news conference. "He was spying for the interests of his country." A spokesman for the Foreign Office declined comment on the allegation but said Britain was continuing to press Iran to allow consular access to Cooper, a fluent Farsi speaker and a nephew of the late poet Robert Graves. The charge d'affaires said Cooper and another Briton accused of spying, Nicholas Nicola, seized in the Mir-Javeh area on the southeastern border with Pakistan last month, had been involved in illegal activities but did not provide details.

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Mubarak meets French minister

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak conferred on Monday with French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. The meeting followed a session between Mr. Raimond and his Egyptian host, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. Mr. Raimond arrived Sunday night for a one-day official visit followed by a private stay of two or three days which he will spend sightseeing at the southern cities of Luxor and Aswan. Egyptian officials said Mr. Raimond's talks dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, the Lebanon turmoil and bilateral relations. They said a major topic was French assistance in easing Egypt's foreign debt burden both on a bilateral basis and in the International Monetary Fund. Egypt is seeking a standby credit of more than \$1 billion from the IMF. The officials said Mr. Raimond's Cairo talks were a follow-up to Mr. Mubarak's talks in Paris this month with President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Jacques Chirac. The two French leaders publicly promised to help Egypt resolve difficulties in servicing its foreign debt that totals about \$66 billion.

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Masri, Abdul Meguid meet in Cairo today

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri will visit Cairo Tuesday for talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. The planned talks follow visits by His Majesty King Hussein to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, apparently aimed at unifying Arab positions before next month's Organisation of Islamic Conference summit meeting in Kuwait. Mr. Masri and Mr. Abdul Meguid will discuss current Arab issues and bilateral relations.

Ministry, private hospitals reach accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement was reached on Monday between the Ministry of Health and private sector hospitals covering treatment of patients transferred from government hospitals and who are covered under the government's health insurance schemes. According to the agreement, which will be implemented in early 1987, private hospitals will be allowed to receive patients who have been transferred to them by the Ministry of Health subject to certain conditions. Ministry of Health doctors will be allowed to transfer patients to private hospitals in accordance with a special format designed for the purpose.

Sudan getting \$100m as relief

KHARTOUM (AP) — International relief agencies are giving Sudan \$100 million a year in aid and providing jobs for more than 6,000 Sudanese, the country's top relief official said Monday. Kamil Shawkat, commissioner for relief and rehabilitation, said 90 agencies are in the country, including the United Nations' umbrella organization, the U.N. Emergency Operation in Sudan (UNEO).

Poisoning cases hit Riyadh

JEDDAH (R) — More than 90 people have been treated in Riyadh central hospital for carbon monoxide poisoning over the past five days, the Jeddah-based Saudi Gazette newspaper reported Monday. The hospital's director attributed the cases to the use of coal to heat houses during a cold spell in the Saudi capital, it said.

Labour says Britain closely involved in U.S. raid on Libya

LONDON (R) — An opposition politician said Monday he had information that Britain's Defence Ministry was involved in advance preparations for last April's U.S. air strike against Libya. Doug Hoyle of the Labour Party told parliament his information came from "an impeccable source" and requested an explanation from Defence Secretary George Younger. Mr. Hoyle said: "I understand that work was being carried out at the Ministry of Defence establishment at Feltham, Middlesex, weeks beforehand with blow-ups of maps of Tripoli and Benghazi, showing the towns in minute detail."

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Arab ministers agree on panel to supervise truce in 'camps war'

TUNIS (Agencies) — An emergency Arab League foreign ministers meeting agreed in principle on Monday to set up an Arab committee to oversee a ceasefire in the Lebanon "camps war," PLO delegate Farouk Kaddoumi said.

Mr. Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Political Department, told reporters after emerging from a closed-door session of delegation chiefs that the PLO had received considerable support for its proposal to set up the committee. Arab diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said it was not yet decided who would be on the committee but said this was to be discussed in a general debate later Monday night. "It was a great success for us," Mr. Kaddoumi said. The diplomatic sources said there was general consensus for immediate action to stop nearly three months of fighting around Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, in which more than 700 people have died.

Syria, which the PLO has accused of direct involvement with the Shi'ite Amal militia in the attacks on the camps, spoke out

Morocco sent Interior Minister Driss Bassi and the rest sent lower-level representatives. Jordan is represented in the meeting by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, who flew to Tunis from Kuwait on Monday after talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart on preparations for the Jan. 26 Islamic summit to be held in Kuwait.

Mr. Kaddoumi has said the Tunis-based Arab League should reconsider a 10-year-old mandate it gave to Syria to have peacekeeping troops in Lebanon. Some 25,000 Syrian soldiers remain in the country. Mr. Kaddoumi said Sunday that Syria's military presence would be contested on the basis that it had failed to keep the peace. Syrian army units first moved into Lebanon as part of an Arab Deterrent Force designed to curb the civil war which had erupted the previous year. In Beirut, Amal militiamen and Palestinians continued to exchange mortar and artillery fire in and around two refugee camps. At least two more people were reported killed and 14 wounded in overnight fighting. Amal sources said a member of the army's Sixth Brigade was killed and seven people were hurt.

White House rules out pardon in return for testimony in Iran case

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House has ruled out pardoning former top aides in return for testimony regarded as crucial to filling in the gaps in the Iran arms scandal, government sources say. "The idea was floated but not really considered since it would be an obvious political disaster," one administration official was quoted as saying by Reuters. "It is a non-win situation." But James Wright, incoming speaker of the House of Representatives, said in a television interview Sunday that he would urge President Reagan to pardon former National Security Adviser Vice Admiral John Poindexter and Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, his fired aide. Both men have refused to testify to congressional investigators who say their account is essential to finding out

what happened in the secret sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of proceeds to the Nicaraguan "contra" rebels. "If he (Mr. Reagan) truly wants them to come forward and tell the whole truth and if he wants them to have immunity from prosecution, that's a simple way," said Mr. Wright, a Texas Democrat, adding that it would be a way that Mr. Reagan could accept blame for the affair. But Senator Paul Laxalt, a Nevada Republican and a close friend of Mr. Reagan's, dismissed the use of a presidential pardon to clear the air. "It's an appealing suggestion in terms of being simplified and a way to get the facts," he said in a television interview. "It's not flying. No one seems to have an appetite for it," he said. "The reason is... let's get more of the facts out before you talk about pardon."

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Tehran criticises Bonn

NICOSIA (AP) — The West German government has been accused by Iran's ambassador in Bonn of giving a "free hand to Iranian counter-revolutionaries" to attack Iranian officials, Iran's official news agency reported Monday. A spokesman for Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Salari protested to the German Foreign Ministry on Saturday, stating that such incidents "hinder the expansion of Tehran-Bonn relations," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the protest stemmed from an attack by "anti-revolutionary elements" on officials at Iran's pavilion at the Frankfurt book fair in October. Four of the Iranian officials were "wounded when a group of anti-revolutionary elements burst inside, passively watched by German security police, who did not make the least effort to prevent them," the agency added. A West German deputy foreign minister who met with Mr. Salari "expressed regret over the lax behaviour of the German police and hoped that such incidents would not occur again," the agency said. Ministry spokesman Reinhard Bettzeuge said that Meyer Landrut, a state secretary at the ministry, promised that West German authorities would "look into" Mr. Salari's complaints.

Court rejects Bokassa request

BANGUI (R) — A court hearing charges against Central African dictator Jean-Bedel Bokassa on Monday rejected a request by his defence lawyers for a week's recess on health grounds. Edouard Frank, president of the Central African Republic's court of justice, ruled that the trial should continue, with recesses for Christmas and the New Year. Bokassa's lawyers have been pressing for a suspension and have produced a doctor's certificate showing the 65-year-old former emperor suffers from hypertension and heart problems. He has had to stand for hours in stifling heat on charges of crimes ranging from assassination to poisoning and cannibalism during his 13 years in power. The seventh day of the trial was dominated by questioning of a former government official, Zinga

France and Iran resume loan talks

NICOSIA (AP) — French and Iranian officials met in Tehran Monday seeking to end a 12-year financial dispute over a \$1 billion loan made to France by the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Iran's official news agency reported. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the French negotiating team was headed by Jean-Claude Trichet, adviser to the minister of economy and finance, Edouard Balladur. Mehdi Navab, Iran's deputy minister for economy and finance, headed the Iranian side, IRNA reported. It said the French delegation flew to Tehran Sunday, but it did not say how long the Frenchmen planned to stay. IRNA said the talks focused on the repayment of the 1974 loan made by the Shah to finance a uranium processing plant in France. One of the demands of extremists holding six Frenchmen hostage in Lebanon is France repay the loan. France hopes that settling the dispute will convince Tehran to use its influence on the Lebanese militants to free the hostages who have been missing for between nine and 21 months. Iran, hard-pressed economically by the drop in oil prices and its costly six-year-old war with Iraq, has made repayment of the loan a condition for restoring "normal relations" with Paris.

Syrian soldiers raid Tawheed hideouts

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian soldiers raided suspected hideouts of Muslim fundamentalists in the north Lebanese port of Tripoli on Monday, security sources said. The sources in Tripoli told Reuters that Syrians were searching for Sunni fundamentalists they blamed for fighting which killed an estimated 30 people in the city. Dozens of members of the pro-Iranian Tawheed movement had been rounded up for questioning over the past two days, they said.

The fighting erupted last Friday in Tabeneh, the city's poorest and most heavily populated quarter, when unidentified men raked a Syrian checkpoint with gunfire. Syria rushed tanks into the city and crushed Tawheed opposition in 36 hours of house-to-house fighting, residents reported.

Despite the searches, inhabitants said the city was quickly returning to normal. "Schools and banks reopened... the usual traffic jams are back," said one resident. Civil defence and relief workers cleared away rubble as dazed residents emerged from basements to inspect damage to their shell-pocked homes.

The Tripoli clashes were seen as an offshoot of the "camps war" in Lebanon pitting fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and militiamen of the Syrian-backed Shi'ite Amal movement. Tawheed is believed to have strong links with the PLO and observers said the movement was upset by the Amal assault on PLO camps in Lebanon.

Libya says it is facing 'U.S.-French threat'

CAIRO (AP) — Libya has asked the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) for support against "a dangerous threat" to its southern border from U.S. and French activities in Chad, the official Jamahiriya News Agency (JANA) reported Monday. In a report monitored in Cairo, JANA said the appeals came in letters from the secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, nominally Libya's main policy-making body, to the organisations' secretaries-general. The letters made no mention of military help but indicated the Libyans want international diplomatic initiatives from the two organisations. "The southern (Libyan) border is subjected to a dangerous threat as a result of the U.S.-French military intervention in the internal affairs of Chad," said the letter to Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi. "We, on behalf of the Arab liberation movement, hope that you quickly make moves at the Arab, African and international levels to condemn this aggression and work for strengthening the security and peace in the Arab homeland and the African continent."

New Pakistani cabinet sworn in with little change

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq on Monday unveiled a new cabinet that included no new faces and maintained previous ministers in key posts, two days after the old cabinet was disbanded. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo on Saturday accepted the resignation of an 11-month-old cabinet that had consisted of 21 full ministers and 13 ministers of state (junior ministers). The cabinet announced Monday had 12 full ministers and four junior ministers. Officials said the remaining portfolios would be filled gradually. Mr. Junejo, in disbanding the cabinet, said he was seeking more efficiency and experience. There were no new faces in the team announced Monday, although some ministers had swapped jobs. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was maintained in his post, as was Finance Minister Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo. The government said riots last week in Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city, played a role in the disbanding of the old cabinet. The worst ethnic violence in the country's history left about 185

Iran, claiming 200 killed in Iraqi raids, extends shelling

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran claimed that at least 100 people were killed and scores wounded in Iraqi air raids on the western town of Islamahad-E Gharb on Monday and vowed "revenge in blood" as the reportedly death toll from two days of Iraqi raids rose to more than 200.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the Iraqi fighter-bombers struck an Iranian artillery position in Islamahad-E Gharb in a 24-hour bombardment.

That shelling was to "avenge" air raids Sunday in which 103 people were reported killed in the nearby city of Kermanshah (Bakhtaran). The shelling was scheduled to

end at 8 p.m. (1630 GMT) Monday. But IRNA quoted a spokesman for Tehran's war information headquarters as saying the bombardment "will not be halted" until Iraq ended its "wicked acts."

Baghdad Radio, quoting a military communique, said Iraqi jets bombed military bases and bridges in southern and western Iran on Monday, but denied that civilian targets in Islamahad-E Gharb were hit.

Saying the planes inflicted heavy losses on the Iranians, an Iraqi spokesman said: "Iran makes claims like this every time it suffers heavy losses in an attempt to influence public opinion in Iran and to justify its own daily

criminal acts, such as shelling populated areas."

Tehran Radio said Iraqi jets struck Islamahad-E Gharb for the second time in as many days as relatives buried the victims of Saturday's raid on Bakhtaran, 430 kilometres southwest of Tehran. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has asked U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for urgent action to stop such Iraqi attacks, Tehran Radio added.

Iran said Sunday large numbers of its warplanes had launched three heavy raids against military targets in or near cities including Kermanshah and Shahabad — the former names of Bakhtaran and

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Pravda: Gulf war benefits only U.S. and Israel

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Monday the war between Iran and Iraq was a senseless conflict which benefited no-one but the United States and Israel.

"An inflammation of the situation gives Washington the chance to maintain large naval forces close to the Gulf, and makes it easier to pursue a 'divide and rule' policy in the strategically important and oil-rich region," Pravda said.

The war, now in the seventh year, benefited "those who are interested in exhausting Iran and Iraq still more and in a further sharpening of tension in the Near and Middle East," the article, written by analyst Vladimir Peresad, said. "For this reason, a prolongation of the conflict has been converted into a strategic goal of Israel," he added.

Peresad said the disclosures of U.S. arms deliveries to Iran showed that the Reagan administration was bent on stoking up the Gulf war, which he called fratricidal and senseless.

The Soviet Union, while maintaining public neutrality in the conflict, has continued to supply weapons to Iraq, with which it is linked by a friendship treaty.

At the same time it has sought to improve relations with Iran, which reached a low point in 1983 when the Iranian authorities suppressed the Tudeh (Communist) Party and expelled 18 Soviet diplomats from Tehran.

Alongside Peresad's article, Pravda published balancing reports from Baghdad and Tehran which described life under conditions of war in the two capitals.

AP adds from Kuwait: President Kenan Evren of Turkey said although his country was even-handed towards Iraq and Iran, it had been unable to mediate an end to the Gulf war, a newspaper reported Sunday.

"The amicable relationship we maintain with both Tehran and Baghdad allowed us to suggest sincere proposals to their leaders with a view to working out a final and honourable solution to the conflict," Mr. Evren told the

Kuwait newspaper Al Anbaa.

"In addition, we exerted positive efforts as member of the Islamic Goodwill Committee, but regrettably all these efforts have turned out to be a failure ... because of the wide discrepancy in the attitudes of the two parties," he said.

The Turkish president insisted however that mediation bids by all parties, which include efforts by Arab and Islamic nations, be continued.

He expressed hope that the perils of the war would not be extended to other countries in the Gulf region.

Mr. Evren, who spoke to the newspaper in an interview conducted in the Turkish capital Ankara, labelled as "pure fiction" reports that Turkey harboured ambitions in Iraq's northern areas. "It is a waste of time to comment on these baseless reports as Turkey attaches extreme importance to the geographical sovereignty and stability of all countries in the region and believes territorial integrity of states should be respected universally," he said.

people (are) subjected to in terms of conspiracies and interventions by U.S.-French imperialism," JANA said.

Chad claims chemical attack

The Chad government charged on Monday that Libyan aircraft, artillery and tank guns fired napalm and toxic gas shells in a fierce attack on pro-government positions in northern Chad.

President Habre's chief spokesman, Khamis Togoi, told reporters the Libyans failed to overrun the positions of loyalist forces controlling the town of Bardai.

It was the second time in a week the government has accused Libya of using chemical weapons. The report could not be confirmed.

There was no immediate report of casualties in the Monday attack.

Philippines rebel leader pessimistic over settlement

MANILA (AP) — A rebel leader said Monday prospects have dimmed for a negotiated settlement to end the 17-year communist insurgency, and a Philippines negotiator said there was no possibility the government would share power with guerrillas. President Corason Aquino has said the government will not agree to a coalition with the rebels during talks to try to end the insurgency. But leaders of the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF) say the negotiations must produce a means of "accommodating" groups now outside the government.

On Monday, the Philippine cabinet approved a "national reconciliation and development" plan, which officials say will form the core of government proposals for ending the rebellion.

Government negotiator Teofisto Guingona said the proposal would be presented to the front on Tuesday. He said he hopes a second round of talks can begin Jan. 6.

Rebel leaders have said the proposals, which include amnesty for guerrillas and rural development projects, could improve conditions, but would not

solve the problems in the Philippines.

Front spokesman Antonio Zume said he thought prospects for a negotiated settlement had dimmed for several reasons, including a weekend call by Mrs. Aquino for soldiers to prepare for war if talks fail.

Zume refused to speculate on what issues would be the hardest to resolve in the talks, but cited land reform and "national sovereignty" as "major questions."

The term "national sovereignty" refers to the presence of two U.S. military bases in the Philippines. The rebels want the bases closed.

Guingona said the draft national constitution, due for a ratification plebiscite Feb. 2, was broad enough to accommodate rebel demands for land reform, industrialisation and democracy.

He again ruled out power-sharing, but said former rebels would be able to run for public office and pursue their goals in an elected parliament.

"It is the position of the government that this (power-sharing) is a closed-door matter," Guingona said.

Greeks stay away from talks on border clash

ISTANBUL (R) — Greek officials Monday failed to turn up for a meeting with Turkish counterparts to discuss last Friday's border clash, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency reported.

One Greek and two Turkish soldiers were killed in the Evros River clash, which increased tension between the two NATO countries. Each side has accused the other of firing first.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Saturday that officials from both sides would meet Monday to prepare a written border protocol.

Athenians then demanded compensation for the family of its dead soldier and a Turkish apology, as a pre-condition for attending the talks.

Anatolian said Turkish officials went to the border meeting place Monday morning, but left after a 10-minute wait.

A member of the Turkish team, Edirne Province Deputy Governor Mustafa Aykut, said the Greeks had initially agreed, shortly after the clash, to attend the meeting.

"The Greeks at that time conceded that they crossed into our soil... the incident is a border violation by the Greek soldiers," he was quoted as saying.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, currently visiting North Yemen, told Turkish radio

Monday that the incident was dangerous and sad, and urged both sides to be more careful.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry official who requested anonymity told Reuters the Athens government was escalating tension with Turkey to veil domestic political and economic failures.

Turkey said Sunday that Greek jets had harassed a Turkish marine patrol plane participating in an exercise over the Aegean, on the same day as the border clash in which one Greek and two Turkish soldiers were killed.

A Foreign Ministry statement on the alleged harassment made no reference to the border clash, but observers said it appeared the Turks wanted to emphasise the frequency of confrontations between the armed forces of the two countries to back up plot allegations.

Turkish newspapers reflected the allegations coming from official circles. "Greek plot" was a banner headline in the liberal daily Milliyet.

"Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu could

escalate the tension in order to divert attention abroad," wrote Journalist Ugur Mumcu of the left-of-centre Cumhuriyet.

Each side accuses the other of firing the first shot in the border clash in the Evros River area.

The Foreign Ministry official said it was hard to guess the future course of relations between the two neighbours.

"No one can tell what will happen in international relations after such a crisis," he said.

The two North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member countries are at odds over seabed and air control rights in the Aegean, as well as alleged militarisation by Greece of some of its islands close to Turkey.

The problem of Cyprus also divides the two and they are far apart in their views on the ways of solving the problem.

Turkey wants inter-communal talks while Greece demands a prior pullout by Turkish troops controlling the northern part of the island.

Turkey's border clash casualties were buried in their hometowns Sunday — Lieutenant Hakan Turkyilmaz at Polatli in central Anatolia and private Mehmet Kayiralan in the south eastern town of Diyarbakir — the semi-official Anatolian News Agency reported.

Birzeit professor charged for inciting students

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A Birzeit University political science professor, arrested during demonstration against the Israeli occupation on Dec. 4, has been charged in a military court in Nablus with inciting students to disobey the Israeli army order to end the demonstration against a roadblock, the Israeli English language daily Jerusalem Post has reported.

The roadblock confrontation later became violent and resulted in the deaths of two students, the Post said.

Prof. Salah Abdul Jawad was also accused of leading the sit-down protest at the roadblock. His remand was extended for 18 days, the report said.

A border policeman said that Jawad had called for a non-violent demonstration, but this was contradicted by a captain from Ofra, who said that Jawad had called on the students to throw stones. The captain later shot and killed one of the students.

Jawad's attorney Lea Tsemel denied the charges, the Post added.

W. Germany confirms probe of Libyan missile construction

KARLSRUHE, West Germany (AP) — Prosecutors said Monday they are investigating whether West German experts are helping Col. Muammar Qadhafi build and test missiles.

Robert-Dieter Klee, a prosecutor working on the probe, confirmed a report in the weekly magazine Stern that the investigation is being conducted by the Karlsruhe prosecutor's office.

He refused, however, to give any details and said the office would issue a statement on the case to the media on Tuesday.

Stern reported this week that West German missile and electronics parts are being shipped to Tripoli, the Libyan capital, camouflaged as "air freight," then transported 700 kilometres south to a secret desert construction and test range.

The magazine said electronics experts and engineers from West German research institutes and high-technology concerns are helping the Libyans construct the missiles to replace obsolete Soviet rockets.

Stern attributed its report to "documents and records" which it said also were being examined by the Karlsruhe prosecutor's office and West German Customs investigators.

Tehran bought weapons from East and West

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even before the disclosure that the United States sold arms to Iran, American officials had a hard time persuading other nations not to sell arms to the government in Tehran.

Companies and arms dealers in 10 Communist and 40 non-Communist nations have found they can reap political and economic advantages by arming Iran and Iraq for their grinding border war.

China, which has friendly relations with the United States, has emerged as the main arms supplier to Iran and an important dealer for Iraq, according to U.S. officials who spoke on the subject on condition they not be identified.

The largest Chinese weapons going to Iran are the Styx anti-ship missile, used against shipping in the Gulf, and the Soviet-designed SA-2 anti-aircraft missile, the sources said.

For most of the ammunition, light arms and spare parts, Iran has turned to the shadowy world of the so-called gray and black markets, usually paying two or three times the official price, said a U.S. intelligence official, who requested anonymity.

The clandestine arrangements are part of what the official called "a monstrous effort" by Iran to obtain enough weapons to continue its war with Iraq, started in 1980 and estimated to have claimed a million casualties.

Among the U.S. allies in Europe, West Germany is a major trading partner with Iran, and American officials say that arms and the machinery to make them have found their way into otherwise peaceful shipments.

One West German company is helping Iran set up a munitions plant by shipping it multipurpose heavy machinery, said one official.

Once the machinery was in the country, Iran hired skilled engineers "with flexible morals" to set up a production line to turn out ammunition for small arms, said the sources.

The sources declined to identify the German company, other than to say that it had contracts with Iran before the 1979 revolution, which ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Neil Livingstone, a Washington-based specialist in terrorism said Western European industrialists and arms dealers "have not shied away from Iran,

despite a lot of pious statements to the contrary... there have been a lot of clandestine deals."

Eric Hooglund, an expert on Iran at the non-profit National Security Archive in Washington, said disclosure of European assistance in helping Iran manufacture arms would help explain claims by the Iranian government that it has been making its own ammunition since 1982.

The main Iranian purchases from the black and gray markets have been small arms, artillery and shells for the drawn-out war, which Pentagon officials liken to World War I because it involves trench warfare and heavy casualties on both sides.

The U.S. government severed trade and diplomatic relations with Iran in 1979 after Iranian militants seized the American embassy. In 1982, Washington launched "Operation Staunch" to persuade other governments to block arms shipments to Iran.

President Ronald Reagan, under fire for approving the shipments of anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles to Iran, said last month that the government would sell no more weapons to Tehran, and the political mood in

Washington appears to rule out further shipments.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials are continuing their diplomatic efforts to persuade other countries not to arm Iran.

Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger has complained to China about its role as an arms merchant to Iran and Iraq, but the Chinese response is, "we don't sell arms to either side," said a government source.

Last year, China sold Iran \$500 million in weapons, and this year the total is projected at \$1 billion, said the source.

The Chinese attitude is not unique among U.S. allies, said government officials.

U.S. intelligence got wind that a company partially owned by the government of neutral Austria, Voeste Alpine, was shipping Iran long-range Howitzers via Yugoslavia and Libya, said two sources.

"We had frank talks with the Austrians, and they had frank talks with the company, and we blocked the shipment," said one source. A second source said that the shipment was only partially blocked, and that an unknown number of Austrian Howitzers were shipped.

Iran puts conditions for Beirut hostage mediation

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's Parliament Speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, reiterated Monday that Tehran was willing to help secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon if the United States ends its hostility and considers the kidnappers' demands.

Mr. Rafsanjani has said at least five times in the last month that Iran would intercede on behalf of the hostages if Washington delivered weapons paid for by the last Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and released other Iranian assets held in the United States.

But his reference to the kidnappers' demands introduced a new element into the Iranian offer.

Iran's state-run media, monitored in Nicosia, said Mr. Rafsanjani renewed his offer to mediate with the pro-Iranian Shiite fundamentalists holding the Americans at a meeting with Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, said Rajai Khorassani.

Tehran Radio and the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), quoted Mr. Rafsanjani, a close aide of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, as saying that Washington should also release frozen Iranian assets.

Apart from the weapons, worth \$300 million, some \$500 million are frozen in an Escrow account in a New York bank. This money is the surplus, with accrued interest, from a \$3.7 billion fund set up to repay syndicated loans made to Iran.

Once these assets are released, "we are prepared to mediate with the Lebanese Mujahedeen (warriors) for the release of the hostages," Mr. Rafsanjani was quoted as saying.

But he added: "Our mediation would only be effective with the Lebanese Mujahedeen if America

considers the demands of the Lebanese Mujahedeen."

One of the groups holding Americans captive, Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, has demanded the release of 17 comrades imprisoned in Kuwait for bombing the U.S. and French embassies there in December 1983.

Kuwait refuses and President Ronald Reagan's administration has repeatedly said it will not negotiate with terrorists or pressure Kuwait.

Rafsanjani's son escapes to Canada

Meanwhile a newspaper reported Sunday that Mehdi Bahremani, the eldest son of Mr. Rafsanjani, is believed to have fled to Canada with at least \$6 million in commission from the U.S.-Iran arms deals.

The weekly Observer, quoting unidentified Iranian sources in London, said Bahremani left his home in Brussels, Belgium, on Nov. 15, after being tipped off that an official Iranian investigator was planning to question him about his alleged involvement in buying American weapons for his country.

The paper said Bahremani fled to Toronto, and the investigator spent several days in London before pursuing him.

It said Bahremani, 25, is a close associate of Manoucher Ghorbanifar, identified as the head of Iran's intelligence network in Europe. Ghorbanifar allegedly played a leading role in buying hundreds of millions of dollars of U.S. arms, the paper said.

Bahremani has his own import company and travels under an assumed name, the paper said.

Israeli agents reportedly kidnapped Vanunu in Rome

LONDON (Agencies) — The Israeli who leaked details of his country's nuclear weapons programme was kidnapped in Rome by Israeli agents who took him to face trial in Israel, the London Evening Standard reported Monday.

The Standard said its account of the abduction of Mordechai Vanunu was based on information that Israeli military censors had tried to block being transmitted from Israel on Sunday after Vanunu wrote the details on his hand.

Vanunu pressed his palm against the window of a police van while being taken to court in Jerusalem. Photographers were able to blow up an image of the three lines Vanunu had written in English on his palm, the Standard said.

The newspaper said Vanunu was enticed aboard British Airways flight 504 from London's Heathrow airport to Rome on Sept. 30. An attractive blonde woman named Cindy, who was working for the Israeli Mossad secret service, got Vanunu to board the plane, the Standard said.

"When Vanunu left the British aircraft at Rome Airport that evening, he was grabbed by Israeli secret agents and delivered to Israel," the paper said.

The Standard did not say how it had received the report. It gave no further details of the abduction.

Its account also quoted Italian intelligence sources as denying that Vanunu had been kidnapped in Rome. "The Italians claim that Vanunu was taken to Israel from Paris," the newspaper's story said. Vanunu had been in London talking to the Sunday Times, which on Oct. 5 published a long report that said Israel has been making atomic warheads for 20

years, Israel said it will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

The Sunday Times said its information came from Vanunu, who had been dismissed after working at the Dimona nuclear plant in the Negev Desert in southern Israel.

Vanunu, 32, is being tried in one of the most serious security breaches in Israel's history. He is charged with aiding an enemy in time of war and two counts of aggravated espionage for allegedly passing information with intent to harm. The charges carry a maximum death penalty but Israeli media reports say the prosecution will ask for a sentence of life in prison.

After he disappeared from London some news reports said Israeli agents had abducted him from Britain, but Israel insisted that no British laws had been violated. Britain has not made the issue into a diplomatic clash with Israel.

There also were reports that Vanunu had been lured onto a yacht in the Mediterranean and then was taken into custody by Israeli agents.

Israel has revealed nothing of how Vanunu was taken to Israel. His whereabouts were unknown until Nov. 11 when Israeli authorities said he was held in Israel, and he was 'seen in public until Nov. 30 when he was taken to court for a hearing. His hearings have been held behind closed doors.

Israeli censors Monday blacked out newspaper photographs of a message from former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu detailing how he was spirited back to Israel to face trial for passing alleged atomic secrets to a British newspaper.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:50 Programme review
16:15 Cartoons
16:45 Children programme
17:00 Cutler to Houston
17:45 Religious programme (Fatawa)
18:20 Arabic series
19:25 News programme
19:50 Programme review
20:40 News in Arabic
20:50 Arabic series
21:30 Tomorrow's programme
21:35 Local varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:15 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Prime des bois
19:00 News in French
19:15 L'actualité des peuples
19:30 News in French
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Music Box
21:30 Yes, Prime Minister
22:00 News in English
22:30 Simon and Simon

RADIO JORDAN

85.5 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 97.60 KHz. SW 774111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:30 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:45 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Oriental Foods
11:15 Your Health
11:30 Morning Show
12:00 News Summary
12:45 Readings
13:00 Pop Session
13:05 News Summary
13:45 Pop Session Contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Now Music
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals, Old Favorites
17:00 Science Report
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
21:55 News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639.720, 1333 KHz.

PROGRAMME ONE

06:00 David Munrow 06:30 The Music of Weber: 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00 World News 07:40 24 Hours: News Summary 07:50 News Ideas 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:30 Newsdesk 08:30 Summary: Discovery 12:30 Play: Rumyon's Gays and Girls 13:40 World News 13:40 News Summary 07:30 My Country in Mind 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:00 Reflections 10:15 Hand Knocks 10:30 After Berlin 11:00 World News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 Sounds of the Sixties 12:00 News Summary: Discovery 12:30 Play: Rumyon's Gays and Girls 13:40 World News 13:40 News Summary 07:30 My Country in Mind 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:00 Reflections 10:15 Hand Knocks 10:30 After Berlin 11:00 World News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45 Sounds of the Sixties 12:00 News Summary: Discovery 12:30 Play: Rumyon's Gays and Girls 13:40 World News 13:40 News Summary 07:30 My 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News Summary 07:30

Kuwaiti media praises King's visit, Jordan's efforts to aid pan-Arabism

KUWAIT (Petra) — Kuwaiti media has stressed the significance of His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Kuwait and the talks he had with the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah which were aimed at clearing the Arab and Islamic atmospheres in preparation for convening a summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Kuwait in January.

The Kuwaiti media also gave prominence to the efforts being made by King Hussein to achieve Arab solidarity and to build a joint Arab stand in the face of challenges facing the Arab Nation at present.

In its editorial on Monday, the Kuwaiti Arabic daily Al Ra'i Al A'am said that the King's visit to Kuwait is part of a noble mission carried out by the political leadership in the two sister countries through which they



hope to end the state of division of the Arab World. Kuwait, on its part, spares no effort to serve this goal, the paper said.

The Jordanian-Kuwaiti talks, the paper added, were a

fully-informed discussion of what is happening and what should be done; they (the two countries) will do whatever they can to contribute to the reconciling divergent views, and to alleviating the suffering and the state of deterioration.

The paper went on to say that Jordan and Kuwait should direct the scene of events in a manner that would lead to political changes that would facilitate an improved Arab image. Unless other concerned parties demonstrate cooperation with Jordanian-Gulf efforts in general, the Arab destiny and Arab issues will remain uncertain, resulting in the waste of these goodwill efforts, Al Ra'i Al A'am added.

The paper also urged all parties concerned to rise up to the level of national and pan-Arab responsibilities, bury their differences, and unite their ranks.

Jordan, West Germany sign agreement on technical cooperation in health care

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and West Germany signed on Monday four memoranda notes covering technical cooperation between the two countries, according to a press release issued by the Federal Republic of Germany Embassy in Amman. The four notes were signed and exchanged between Planning Minister Taber Kana'an and West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels.

According to the first note, the German government will present technical assistance to help the Ministry of Health promote training of nurses and midwives in hospitals and health centres in southern Jordan.

The German assistance includes the assignment of German experts to carry out training of nursing staff. It also includes the supply of technical equipment and

instructional material for training purposes.

The second note calls on the German government to send to Jordan a group of German experts for assignment at a number of ministries and governmental departments and institutions, namely: Ministry of Planning; Ministry of Supply; Jordan Valley Authority; Jordan Co-operative Organisation; Jordan Electricity Authority; Faculty of Sports - University of Jordan.

The third note provides that the Federal Republic of Germany will assign a group of German experts to render advisory services in the fields of study and research related to the development of the mechanical engineering department and the industrial chemistry department at the

Royal Scientific Society.

The German government will also supply laboratory equipment and material as required for improving the technical service capacity of the two departments.

The fourth note provides for presentation of German technical aid for the project of training of hospital technicians sponsored by the Royal Medical Services.

The German aid includes services of German training experts in the fields of medical and biomedical technology. It also includes the supply of technical equipment and material necessary for training at the relevant training centre.

Furthermore, the note requires the German government to provide adequate training in general hospital technology, for 16 Jordanian experts.

Khirbet Al Zarah springs to be used for therapeutic purposes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's mineral springs, used by the Greeks and Romans will be exploited for therapeutic purposes and as tourist attractions once the Department of Antiquities has completed restoration work around these springs, according to Department director, Dr. Adnan Al Hadidi.

Dr. Hadidi was referring to springs discovered recently at Khirbet Al Zarah, east of the

Dead Sea, near the Zarqa Ma'in hot springs, by a joint team from his department and the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology. He said that nearly 40 springs, whose temperatures range between 31 and 53°C, had been used for therapeutic purposes by the Greeks and Romans and that these springs were unearthed by the joint archaeological team working in the area.

Refinery sales of oil products increase

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) sold 2,557,071 tonnes of oil products in the past 11 months compared to 2,365,645 tonnes in the same period of last year, an increase of eight per cent. A company spokesman said that the products sold in the Jordanian market in this period included petrol, kerosene, diesel oil and fuel oil.

Iran, claiming 200 deaths, extends shelling

(Continued from page 1)

Islamabad-E Gharb). Iran has reported stepped-up Iraqi air raids on Iranian "residential areas" and industrial centres over the past few weeks. Three of the raids were said to have caused more than 100 deaths each.

Iran has retaliation by bombing targets near the common border, including the firing of six surface-to-surface missiles into the southern Iraqi port city of Basra.

Iranian leaders have said a "decisive" military move against Iraq will be made by March.

U.S. newspapers reported last week that Washington had supplied Baghdad with

information including spy satellite intelligence, helpful to its war efforts.

Tehran's Kayhan newspaper said Iraqi air raids against Iranian military and economic centres this year had been "incomparably more accurate and efficient" than before.

"This is due to the equipping of Iraqi warplanes with laser devices and guided bombs which were previously lacking," it said.

Iran's air force, reduced to an estimated 60-70 operational planes, is outnumbered at least six-to-one by Iraq's powerful air force and appears unable to counter the heavy Iraqi air raids.

Meanwhile, the Librarian supertanker Achilles, on charter

to the National Iranian Tanker Co., has been attacked by Iraqi warplanes near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern reaches of the Gulf, the London-based Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit reported Monday.

The unit, which monitors maritime traffic throughout the world, said the 269,195-tonne tanker was attacked on Dec. 20. It gave no further details.

The Achilles was the first of several ship attacks claimed by the Iraqis since Dec. 8 to be confirmed.

Baghdad's military command announced Saturday that a "large maritime target" — the term usually for tankers — was hit off the Iranian coast.

White House rules out pardon in return for testimony

(Continued from page 1)

arms sale and subsequent diversion of proceeds.

The special senate panel investigating the case might consider limited immunity for White House officials and seek help from Iran to learn the truth about the transactions, says the committee's chairman.

"I'm not closing any of the doors," Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, chairman of the Senate Select Committee, said Sunday on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

"If it takes a grant of immunity to get to these questions, they'll be considered, yes."

Mr. Inouye, whose panel is looking into the arms sales and the diversion of profits to the Nicaraguan rebels, said he intends to proceed cautiously because the integrity of the president and the nation are at stake.

"I think the potential we have before us can be very explosive," he said.

Mr. Inouye, and opposition Democrat and former member of the original Watergate panel, said

that at the "appropriate time" channels would be opened with other nations to aid the inquiry.

Congressional investigators from both parties have agreed that testimony from the two pivotal figures in the controversy — Col. North and Adm. Poindexter — is key to solving the mystery of what happened to the money and how such a plan was hatched.

Sen. Inouye said his panel would seek help from Switzerland, Israel and probably Iran.

The select Watergate-style committee was appointed last week.

Iranian officials have said they can produce tapes of conversations with U.S. officials. Swiss authorities may provide information on the flow of funds in and out of the accounts and Israeli officials might be able to provide evidence on how the arms trade was worked out.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, in an interview with the New York Times, said that Mr. Reagan had not yet convinced the public that he had done all he could to get at the truth. He

quoted Mr. Reagan as saying, "People like me, but they don't believe me."

In other developments, former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane, who flew with a planeload of U.S. arms to Tehran, said that Mr. Reagan approved the deal in advance. Mr. Reagan and all his other top advisors deny that.

According to Time magazine, Mr. McFarlane provided details of Mr. Reagan's approval, which he said came at a meeting in the White House on Aug. 6 or Aug. 7, 1985. He said Secretary of State George Shultz, Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger and Adm. Poindexter also were there.

Time quoted Mr. McFarlane as saying: "It is not reasonable to believe that I would convey an approval against the president's wishes."

Mr. Shultz and Mr. Weinberger have said they recall no such approval and White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan said last week that Mr. Reagan had first rejected the proposal but accepted it after it occurred.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma presents diplomas to graduates of the Princess Basma Women Police Institute on Monday.

Princess Basma stresses progress of women in the police profession

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said that Jordan has been quite successful in recruiting and employing police women; this provides proof that Jordanian women can shoulder security responsibilities.

Addressing a ceremony held Monday for the graduation of 31 police women at the Princess Basma Women Police Institute, the Princess said that the Kingdom's success in this respect came only after overcoming tremendous difficulties involving the employment of women in security services. She paid tribute to the great achievements of the institute. She noted that the first graduating class in 1972 included only six women, barely with secondary education, while the institute now turns out graduates with university degrees and in large numbers. Princess Basma congratulated the graduates and

wished them success in their careers.

The institute's director, Major Husniah Shahin, made a speech on the occasion, underlining the need for young women to contribute to the development and progress of their country. She also expressed appreciation to Princess Basma for her efforts and her concern for the institute, and also voiced appreciation to the Public Security Department for its continued support and help.

The graduates have had six months of theoretical and practical training in police work and military training, in addition to legal, cultural and sports training. The graduation ceremony was attended by Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali, the police director in Amman region, senior police officers, and relatives of the graduates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad visits armoured division

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty the King, paid a visit Monday to the Fourth Royal Armoured Division where he was received upon arrival by the division's commander and high-ranking officers. Prince Mohammad was briefed by the division's commander on the progress of training programmes at the division. Prince Mohammad also visited a number of the division's military units.

Education committee discusses IESCO

AMMAN (Petra) — Executive bureau of the Jordanian National Committee for Education, Culture and Science held a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Bashairah, secretary general of the Ministry of Education. The committee reviewed results of the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Education, Culture and Scientific Organisation (IESCO), held in Rabat in October. They also reviewed letter of the chairman of the executive board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on inviting applications for the post of UNESCO director general and discussing nominations from member states. The committee also reviewed Jordanian nominations for a number of vacant posts in UNESCO and nominations for vacant seats in UNESCO's executive board.

Association to promote egg production

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for Producing and Marketing Eggs has decided to organise a national information campaign as of the beginning of the year 1987, to promote the production of eggs. The one year campaign aims at promoting marketing eggs locally and explaining its use as an important foodstuff. The one-year promotion campaign was warranted after the society has found out that the consumption by Jordanian citizens from this foodstuff is lower than the international consumption rate.

IDB to discuss financing development

JEDDAH (Petra) — Executive directors of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank Monday held their 87th session here under the chairmanship of the IDB President Ahmad Mohammad Ali. During the two day meetings, conferees will discuss a number of issues pertaining to the approval of new loans to finance a number of development projects and providing technical assistance to a number of countries, and to Islamic communities in non-member countries, in addition to financing some external trade projects in a number of member states. Participants will also discuss two draft cooperation agreements between the IDB and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, between the IDB and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Health minister receives 2 Arab professors

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Monday received two Iraqi and Egyptian professors of therapy medicine who arrived here to supervise the exams held by the Jordan Medical Council (JMC). The two professors, Dr. Ahmad Zaghloul from Cairo University and Mr. Hekmat Jamil from Baghdad University, made remarks on JMC exams in therapy medicine and proposed that it should be on two levels, one at the diploma level, and the second at the U.S. board or Ph.D. level to meet Jordan's needs. The two professors also expressed the readiness of the faculties of medicines in the two universities to offer scholarships for Jordanian doctors to obtain diploma.

Department to promote national archives

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLNA) is organising a week-long activities to promote documents and national archives and other publications in the country. The activities are designed to highlight the importance of documents in the life and history of a nation and their role in projecting its cultural identity and image. DLNA Director General Ahmad Sharkas said Sunday. He said that the week-long activities will start on Dec. 25 and end on Dec. 31 and will be held in various regions of the country. Dr. Sharkas issued a call to the public to provide DLNA with any old photographs and documents for the purpose of displaying them at the exhibitions of documents and other items to be held during the activities.

CSC will continue processing applications despite freeze, says President Izzuddin

AMMAN (Petra) — Civil Service Commission (CSC) President Ibrahim Izzuddin said on Monday that any Jordanian wishing to join the government services can do so, by applying to the CSC, which will process the applications in the light of the vacancies.

Mr. Izzuddin added that despite the year-end freeze on appointments to government ministries and departments, the CSC will continue to receive and process applications by Jordanian citizens, in implementation of Prime Minister's directives.

The new job opportunities for 1987, said Mr. Izzuddin, will take a new form aimed at ensuring the best selection of posts and at the same time offering candidates, for filling the jobs, in-service training, aimed at improving their performance. Commenting on this new trend, Mr. Izzuddin said that it is designed to achieve administrative reform and to

provide job opportunities for citizens, as called for by the speech from the throne.

The training and prequalification programmes, planned for the year 1987, will ensure that some 7000 applicants will be trained under the supervision of the CSC and the Institute of Public Administration. In addition to these training programmes, it is expected that the Vocational Training Corporation will offer training opportunities for some 5000 citizens, Mr. Izzuddin added.

He also said that the subcommittee which has been



Ibrahim Izzuddin

formed under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan will present its recommendations on employment opportunities to the ministerial committee in charge of following up on the employment issue.

CAA delegation to travel to Cairo to discuss air routes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is due to fly to Cairo on Friday for talks with Egyptian officials on returning to the pre-1967 flight route between Cairo and Amman. The route will cut flight time by 20 minutes and save up to \$7 million a year in fuel costs, according to Mr. Amin Al Hussein, CAA director, who will lead Jordan's delegation to the meetings.

Mr. Hussein said that returning to the pre-1967 route requires agreement between the Royal Jordanian and Egyptian Air; the talks will also cover the subject of considering flights by the two national airlines between Amman and Cairo as internal flights, entitling them to be exemption from take-off and landing fees in either capital.

Earlier this month, Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib signed an agreement with his Egyptian counterpart Mr. Fouad Sultan covering these issues, and also establishing a joint company to develop tourist attractions in the Gulf of Aqaba. Mr. Hussein will be accompanied on the visit by Mr. Akel Bilalji, Royal Jordanian vice president for marketing and sales, and Mr. Bassam Salaitah, CAA's director of air transport and air control.

AMPCO sends 2nd shipment to EC states

AMMAN (J.T.) — The second shipment of Jordanian vegetables and fruits to European Community (EC) countries left Amman Sunday, bound for Britain, according to a spokesman for the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO). On Wednesday, AMPCO dispatched the first shipment of goods to the Community countries of Holland, Britain, and West Germany, according to an agreement signed between these EC countries and Jordan. These shipments will continue until April 1987.

According to the AMPCO spokesman, a shipment of citrus fruit and vegetables, produced in Jordan, has been sent to Kuwait in implementation of an agreement with Kuwaiti importers. AMPCO has signed contracts with a number of Gulf countries for purchasing Jordanian agricultural products, the spokesman said.

Jordan is at forefront in public security, says Minister Dajani

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani said Monday that Jordan was one of the foremost countries in the Middle East region in the areas of public safety and the protection of the environment.

Addressing the first meeting of local directors of public safety, held at the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Dajani said that Jordan's recent industrial development has prompted a search for effective measures to provide safety for workers.

A public safety department, formed by the Ministry of Interior early this year, has laid down guidelines for providing occupational safety measures at various organisations and factories, and has organised training courses on public safety and improving work performance, Mr. Dajani said.

The growth of industry in Jordan over the past few years has led to the emergence of a significant body of industrial workers who require protection at their places of work, the minister added.

Mr. Dajani expressed appreciation to those in charge of carrying out "a job description project" at the department which, he said, provides for measures on safety for workers and guidelines for protection at various business and industries.

He said that MSM aged 47 and AMA aged 35 had lured the victim to the hut pretending that they had some news to tell him about a woman he was looking to marry. The two murderers tied up the man, robbed JD 200 he had on him, shot him, and later burnt the body to conceal the traces of their crime, Brig. Udwan added.

He said that the two admitted committing the crime, and re-enacted the crime before the police.

Meanwhile, in Al-Husni, in the Irbid governorate, a man identified only as AKF stabbed to death his 21-year-old wife with a sharp tool. The man was immediately arrested; the police were investigating the crime, according to report in the local press.

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Another try in Tunis

ARAB foreign ministers are meeting again in Tunis in a resumed emergency session to attempt putting an end to the fratricidal war in Lebanon between Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters. Two weeks ago the same ministers, or their representatives, met for the same purpose, but their efforts were in vain. It was decided then that the ministers should renew their efforts after more consultations among the Arab countries with a view to narrow the differences on the framework of a possible solution to the "war of the camps."

Because military developments in the field have hardly changed over the past two weeks it is difficult to predict that the outcome of the ongoing talks in Tunis will be any different from the last meeting. That is why perhaps we should pin more hope on changes in political postures of the fighting factions as well as the Arab countries vis-a-vis the "camps war" rather than on the military situation in Beirut and South Lebanon. If anything, the differences between the warring parties and even among Arab countries on this issue have been further exacerbated with the passage of time of the bitter conflict. Therefore it would indeed be a sad development if the conflict between Amal and the Palestinians is left to be settled on the battlefield rather than through political means under the auspices of the Arab League.

If political solutions to such inter-Arab conflicts are going to continue to be elusive for much longer and the Arab League umbrella continues to remain to be an ineffective machinery to resolve Arab disputes, then perhaps it is high time for the Arab community to think in terms of the latest proposal put to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) by Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, secretary-general of the OIC, who called for the establishment of an Islamic court of justice to settle disputes among Islamic countries. Apparently Mr. Pirzadeh has in mind the Iran-Iraq war as the number one dispute between Muslim countries which could be referred to such an Islamic court of justice for resolution; but the fighting in Lebanon could equally be an issue which could be tackled by such a proposal.

If the OIC sees fit to think in terms of creating an inter-Islamic court of justice, one would think that the Arab League could also begin to articulate and formulate the principles for a parallel Arab court of justice to review and adjudicate disputes between Arab parties or countries. Of course, such a proposal has to be aired out first in an Arab summit which the Arab World needs so badly in the present circumstances. But until that happens the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis should continue their search for some compromise which could put an immediate end to the fighting in Lebanon between brothers.

Failure to reach such a compromise would mean continued bloodshed and suffering in Lebanon and more agony for the rest of the Arab people. But it also spells disaster for the prospects of common Arab action and solidarity.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: For Arabs' best interests

KING Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for talks on Arab affairs was part of his continued efforts for coordinating policies and stands of various Arab countries in view of the current developments in the Arab region. The talks were essential in the light of the developments in the Gulf war and the serious events in the occupied Arab territories. The visits and the talks reflect the fact that Jordan attaches great importance to pan-Arab solidarity which this country believes is the only response to continued acts of aggression by the enemies of the Arab Nation. Jordan believes that without solidarity and coordination among Arab states there can be no way out of the present dangerous state of affairs, and no end to the tragedies and the sufferings of the Arab people. King Hussein wound up the two visits with cables which he sent to the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, underlining the importance of rallying Arab efforts and ranks in confrontation with the enemy, and emphasised the continued need for coordination and cooperation among Arab states. But Jordan does not see in these bilateral meetings as a substitute for an all out meeting at a summit level between Arab leaders, but a paving of the way for such an important parity that would bring about joint Arab action and fruitful results.

Al Dustour: Arabs have hope in King's efforts

KING Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which ended last night was motivated by the monarch's keenness on maintaining solidarity among Arab countries and coordinating Arab stands vis-a-vis the serious developments in their region. The visit was of significance, coming shortly before the convening of an Islamic summit conference in Kuwait which will tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the Gulf region in view of the on-going Iran-Iraq conflict. Kuwait where the Islamic leaders are scheduled to meet is close to the source of danger in the Gulf, and it is one of the Arab countries which are directly involved in the conflict and its consequences. Jordan is concerned about the situation in the Gulf and in the occupied Arab territories, and so, it is spearheading efforts for ensuring a success of the summit. This can be done through mobilising Arab efforts and coordinating their stands particularly as the Arabs and Muslims are now confronting critical circumstances that call for unity of ranks and concerted efforts. Arab masses have been following with interest the visits of King Hussein to different Arab states and the outcome of his talks with Arab leaders with the hope that such meetings will yield fruitful results. We in Jordan also hope that King Hussein's efforts will be crowned with success, and we also hope that the Arab leaders will respond favourably to the King's call and join in his efforts.

Sawt Al Shaab: King pursues Arab concerns

KING Hussein believes in an exchange of views and coordination of efforts among Arab leaders and also in interaction and understanding among Arab countries with regard to issues of common concern. For this reason the King has embarked on visits to Arab capitals for talks with Arab leaders, and for this reason he is pursuing his efforts at all levels. The visits to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia came on the heels of the King's call at a graduation of officers from the Royal Command and Staff Academy on all Arab states to rise above the level of differences and deal with the challenges that are facing all Arab countries. The King has not only called but also followed up the call by visits to two important capitals for the sake of rallying the Arabs and unifying their ranks and their stands. King Hussein has called on the Arab leaders to meet at a summit level for the sake of dealing with the continued Iranian aggression on Arab territory and the danger inherent in such aggression. He also wants the summit to deal with the Lebanese question and find a concerted action that can help the Arabs to deal with Israel and its continued occupation of Arab land.

With no figures released, Israel spends more on enlarging existing settlements

The following article by Gershon Gorenberg, recently appeared in the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post

AT THE END of September, one of the Likud's top settlement officials toured proposed settlement sites in the West Bank with Gush Emunim leaders. Mattityahu Drobes was clearly looking forward to rotation, then two weeks off. He announced that he would ask Yitzhak Shamir's government to approve 20 new settlements in the territories, and was "confident" his plan would go through. "The Likud will do things the right way," he told reporters.

Within 48 hours, Peres told Drobes from the podium of a farmers' convention: "Matti, we won't permit it." Other Labour Party men at the gathering backed Peres up. Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi said: "Massive settlement... will trigger high inflation." If government cash was available, said Agriculture Minister Nehamkin, it was needed by near-bankrupt farmers in the Jordan Valley.

The brief flurry reinforced the public's perception that the Peres-led national unity government had idled the Likud's settlement machine. That perception, though, is starkly contradicted by reality.

While the Alignment has stemmed the flow of funds for establishing new settlements in the last two years, a Mississippi river of government money has apparently flowed into expanding existing ones. Estimates of spending on capital development alone range from a dizzying \$330 million to \$400 million, but government officials refuse to give precise figures. The real cost "has become a bigger secret than the Vanunu affair," a frustrated Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur (Alignment) told The Jerusalem Post recently.

During Peres's term as prime minister, the number of Jews in the West Bank shot from 42,600 to 60,000, according to Meron Benvenisti, the leading expert on settlement activity. Benvenisti has been warning for years that Israel has already virtually annexed the territories. He cites numbers and settlement names with an angry excitement apparently fed by the apathy he has met.

Much of the settlement's growth resulted from momentum created before September 1984. It takes about two years to build houses — so almost all the new residents moved into homes which started going up before Peres took office.

But the momentum has not let up.

The Jewish towns and villages of the West Bank are caught up in a frenzy of construction. At Alfei Menashe, near Kalkilya, bulldozers are clearing ground for a new neighbourhood. At Oranit, east of Petah Tikva, 200 families have settled since May 1985, and pick-up trucks with Nabulsi and Tulkarm plates daily bring workers to complete 200 more homes. On the Trans-west bank way, bulldozers are busy every few kilometres widening the road that links the Jewish suburbs. At Eli, north of Ramallah, ground has been broken for 40 houses. At Har Adar, outside Jerusalem, the first 25 families moved in this year and another 225 villas are being built. The bulldozer is everywhere, and its roar seems all the louder in contrast with the

near silence about the settlement issue in Israeli politics.

Under the unity government, construction has begun on nearly 2,800 new housing units in the territories, satisfied Housing Minister David Levy told The Post in a recent interview that his ministry "has done just as much in the past two years as it did in the two years before that." When talking about settlements, Levy smiled constantly, bragged of "the wonderful progress" he'd achieved, and sidestepped the questions about political opponents. From his point of view, things were going too well to risk stirring up fighters.

Massive settlement in the West Bank began during the Likud administrations of 1977-84, which sought to prevent territorial compromise by spreading Jewish towns and villages across the territories.

As Benvenisti points out in his 1986 Report on the West Bank, the Likud administrations declared vast areas of the West Bank to be state lands. The government let private citizens begin buying Arab land in the territories in 1979, and three years later, land developers got the go-ahead to build private settlements.

At the end of the '70s, top Housing Ministry officials say, the ministry gave priority to the large suburban towns in the West Bank rather than to the scattered villages favoured by Gush Emunim. "The goal was to populate Judea and Samaria," one official says, "and towns were clearly the way to do it massively." The ministry built roads and other infrastructure, gave developers credit, and offered big mortgages to home-buyers.

The policy sparked a suburban land boom. Developers rushed to fulfil Israel's dreams of "quality of life" in the form of a house and a garden in a West Bank town.

By 1983, demand for houses in towns close to the pre-1967 border was so high that the Housing Ministry could cut back on its aid, according to Eli Nafat, head of the ministry's dwelling and property branch and former ministry director-general. But large incentives were still given for settlements deeper in the West Bank, such as Eilat, south of Bethlehem, and the Samaria town of Ariel.

While the Housing Ministry put its energy into big suburbs, the Likud also kept working with settlement movements such as Gush Emunim's Amana organisation to put up a large number of villages.

The wave of new settlements reached a crescendo in the spring and summer of 1984. Facing elections and afraid of a possible loss of power, the Likud rushed to tighten the grip on the "Greater Land of Israel." At least 16 settlements were set up, according to Amana deputy chief Uri Elitzur. New villages kept going up even after the elections, as Likud and Alignment leaders held the harrowing talks that led to the current coalition. Nine young couples and their children moved into pre-fab houses on the hilltop at Eli on September 11, just two days before the unity government took office. When 10 families arrived at Nahliel, northwest of Ramallah, their houses still lacked doors and windows. The date was October 25, 1984 — over a month after Peres became prime minister.



Israeli Housing Minister David Levy (far left) and settlers: planning the expansion of an existing settlement

The settlement issue caused repeated skirmishes during the coalition talks, as the Alignment tried to limit new settlement activity. Under the agreement finally pounded out, the unity government was to set up 28 settlements already approved by previous governments. Several were to go up within a year. The two parties would have to agree on the timing of the others — giving the Alignment an effective veto on all but the first few settlements.

But two gaping loopholes were built into the unity pact: Existing settlements could keep expanding, and of the ministries most involved in settlement activity, only Defence went to Labour. David Levy stayed at the helm of the Housing Ministry, and Ariel Sharon took over at

Industry.

The unity agreement did say that the "extent of development" of settlements "will be determined by the government." But in practice, the Likud men have been virtually free to allocate their ministries' money to the Jewish suburbs and villages of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The one who decides where to spend the ministry's budget," is the Housing Ministry's Nafat says, "is the ministry itself."

The Housing Ministry has been a dominant force in settlement activity. But the Industry Ministry has been at work setting up factories in the territories, and other ministries and the government-financed World Zionist Organisation (WZO) also play a part. How much money has

the state invested in building settlements in the past two years?

Many millions of dollars — but no one knows quite how many.

The Housing Ministry, for example, says it does not keep a separate account of West Bank spending. "The programme doesn't say how much goes to Judea and Samaria and how much doesn't. It goes to the whole country," says spokeswoman Aliza Goren.

Absorption Minister Tsur, who wants an accounting of expenditures in the territories, says he asked the Treasury, Central Bureau of Statistics and the Bank of Israel, and "no one had any figures."

Benvenisti says his analysis shows that the government budgeted about \$150 million for capital investment in the territories in the current fiscal year, and the same amount, the year before. Tsur gives a higher figure — \$400 million in the last two years — but stresses this is "only an estimate."

For comparison, it would cost \$2m to set up a new village, according to Drobes, the Likud co-head of the WZO settlement division. The other co-head, Nissim Zivli of Labour, has set the figure at \$2.5m. The amounts saved by blocking new settlements pale beside what has apparently been put into existing ones.

New settlements, though, have been established under the unity government. Official sources point to three settlements set up in keeping with the coalition accord. A fourth, Beit Ha'arava in the Jordan Valley, is a former army outpost that was turned over to civilians last September. The Alignment has made it clear that it will not agree to more new settlements.

But according to Benvenisti, 11 settlements have been set up. He reached this number by comparing the sites which the IDF listed as populated in June of this year to those listed for autumn 1984.

Where did the other seven settlements come from?

At one, Karmei Tzur, south of Bethlehem, settlers lived briefly in spring 1984, then left and returned only the next winter. Another, Givot Shomron, is legally part of the existing Karmei

Shomron.

Government sources say the other five come under the "existing settlement" rule.

For the government, the sources say, a settlement "exists" once the government budgets it, once houses begin to go up. Settlers moved into Nahliel, Oranit, Har Adar and two other new suburbs, even though no one had lived at the sites in September 1984, and no approval was sought from the unity government.

The day Peres resigned as prime minister, aide to Drobes said the WZO settlement chief was about to meet with Yitzhak Shamir and present a map of proposed settlements. A copy of the map was obtained by The Post. On it 41 sites were marked for new towns and villages.

Drobes angrily denied responsibility for the map, though he had publicly called for a new settlement push. He insisted he had not met with Shamir, and added: "I'm not obligated to report to you."

Knowledgeable sources have told The Post that Drobes and Levy are at odds over strategy. As settlement division chief, Drobes wants the go-ahead to put up a large number of villages, and a settlement drive would strengthen him in Likud politics. Levy has much less need for new villages, since he can take credit for enlarging existing towns. The unity pact has only hurt his rival. "In Ariel there'll be a park named after Levy's mother and a park named after his father," one source quipped.

Amana's Elitzur says his movement also has "ideas" for new settlements. The movement has already organised groups of settlers for 11 sites, he says.

Levy says his ministry, too, is preparing a detailed programme for new settlements. But he insists he is being realistic about what the Alignment will agree to, and his proposal isn't for "dozens of hundreds" of new sites.

Shamir does not want to upset his coalition partners. After the WZO plan was published, his spokesman said the premier believed "the stress should be on strengthening the existing settlements," not building new ones.

At the same time, Tsur has asked the premier to put the issue of government spending in the territories on the cabinet agenda. Tsur says that before the next cabinet discussion of the budget he wants "each ministry... to submit its budget for the territories separately." The unity pact, he points out, gives the cabinet the right to set the pace at which the settlements will grow, and he insists it should use that power.

Tsur's spokesman notes, though, that Shamir draws up the agenda, "and you can assume this, won't come up for three-four months, because Shamir has no interest in bringing it up now."

It also remains to be seen whether other Alignment ministers will be willing to fight the Likud on the spending issue.

For now, the pattern of the last two years is likely to continue. Settlers will move into the 2,800 homes now being built in the West Bank. Industrial parks will go up, roads will be paved. The Likud, revamping the pre-state Labour Zionist slogan of "another goat, another dunghill" will apparently continue to build "another house, another school."

Despite warnings, British party defiant on non-nuclear defence

Labour leader formally launches plan for a Britain without nuclear weapons

By Colin McIntyre
 Reuters

LONDON — Despite warnings of disastrous consequences at home and abroad, Britain's opposition Labour Party appears determined to press ahead with a policy to scrap the country's nuclear defences.

The policy, which would involve the highest shakedown in West European defence since the end of World War II, has been attacked by other NATO countries and has created unease even among some party leaders who are worried about polls which say it could be electoral suicide.

Labour has been out of office since 1979 and is bidding to oust Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in elections that are due by June 1988.

Disregarding the warnings, the party's 44-year-old leader Neil Kinnock this month formally launched his plan, ratified by the party in the summer, for a Britain without nuclear weapons or bases.

He pledged that if he won the elections, which are expected next year, he would scrap Britain's ageing Polaris missile, cancel its £10 billion (\$14 billion) American replacement and close all U.S. nuclear bases in the country.

Labour's foreign affairs spokesman Denis Healey said the

world already contained 50,000 nuclear weapons, equal to one million bombs similar to the one dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, and painted an apocalyptic picture of nuclear conflagration.

Government calculations suggested that 29 million people in Britain would be killed initially, in nuclear conflict, and the figure would rise eventually to 50 million, 95 per cent of the population, he said.

Since it was unthinkable that a nuclear battle would be fought in Europe with these casualty levels, it was time to review the whole concept of nuclear deterrence, he argued. "We cannot continue to base our security on the threat of mutual suicide," he added.

The abolition of Britain's nuclear arsenal would leave France as West Europe's only nuclear power.

The Labour Party says it wants the money saved on buying the American Trident system to be used to boost conventional defences, thereby reducing the threat of nuclear conflict.

In its presentation on December 10 Labour offered a number of minor concessions which were clearly aimed at making the policy more acceptable at home, where recent opinion polls have shown nearly a third of voters opposed to it, and

abroad.

While originally rejecting NATO's nuclear strategy, including the protection for Britain of the U.S. nuclear umbrella, the party acknowledged that the alliance was "indivisible" adding: "Britain must accept the agreed strategy of the alliance until it succeeds in changing it."

Kinnock also appeared to tone down his earlier suggestion that American nuclear bases should close within a year, indicating that the process of dismantling them

could take longer following what he hoped would be amicable discussions with U.S. authorities.

These were seen as concessions to members of the Labour leadership, including Healey, who favour a multilateralist approach to disarmament and are known to have considerable misgivings about the current policy and its potential electoral damage.

Despite these modifications, reaction from the government, other opposition parties, the press and Britain's North Atlantic

Treaty Organisation (NATO) partners was almost universally hostile. The plan has already been condemned by senior officials in the U.S. administration.

While nobody doubted the obvious sincerity of a life-time anti-nuclear campaigner, and many critics accepted Kinnock's argument that Britain's independent deterrent was insignificant in global terms, they slammed his unilateralist approach.

Conservative Defence Minister George Younger said Labour's policy would gravely undermine NATO, adding: "Giving up those weapons in a one-sided gesture would leave us without any means of resisting Soviet pressure or nuclear blackmail."

In Brussels, NATO chief Lord Carrington said: "We are an alliance of 16 nations and we have each undertaken certain obligations — unilaterally to abandon them would affect our 15 other partners."

Predictably, the predominantly pro-Tory national newspapers were even more scathing in their criticism of the new policy.

The London Times accused the party on going "over the top to disaster with an idiot enthusiasm which even the [Labour] voice could not have matched." "As a prime minister he could

not push through policies like these without doing grave harm to British security, safety and national interest," it said.

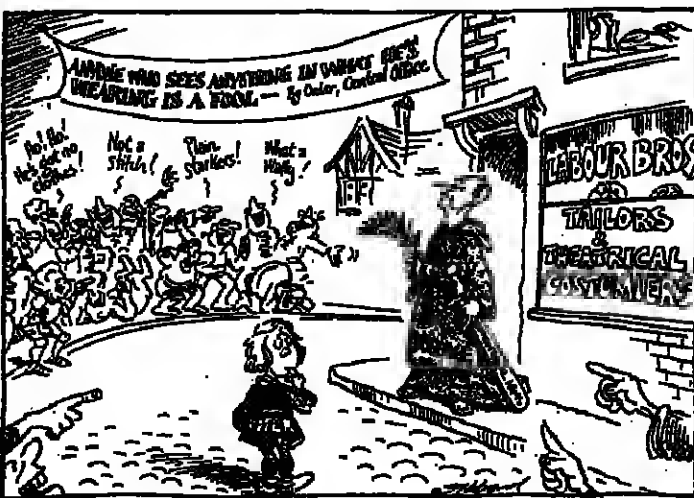
The Financial Times said an alliance was about sharing and about making sacrifices in return for some protection. "If it is to work at all it has to be a collective enterprise."

"It is very difficult not to see the Labour Party's proposals as an attempt to write its own rules and to opt out of alliance responsibilities."

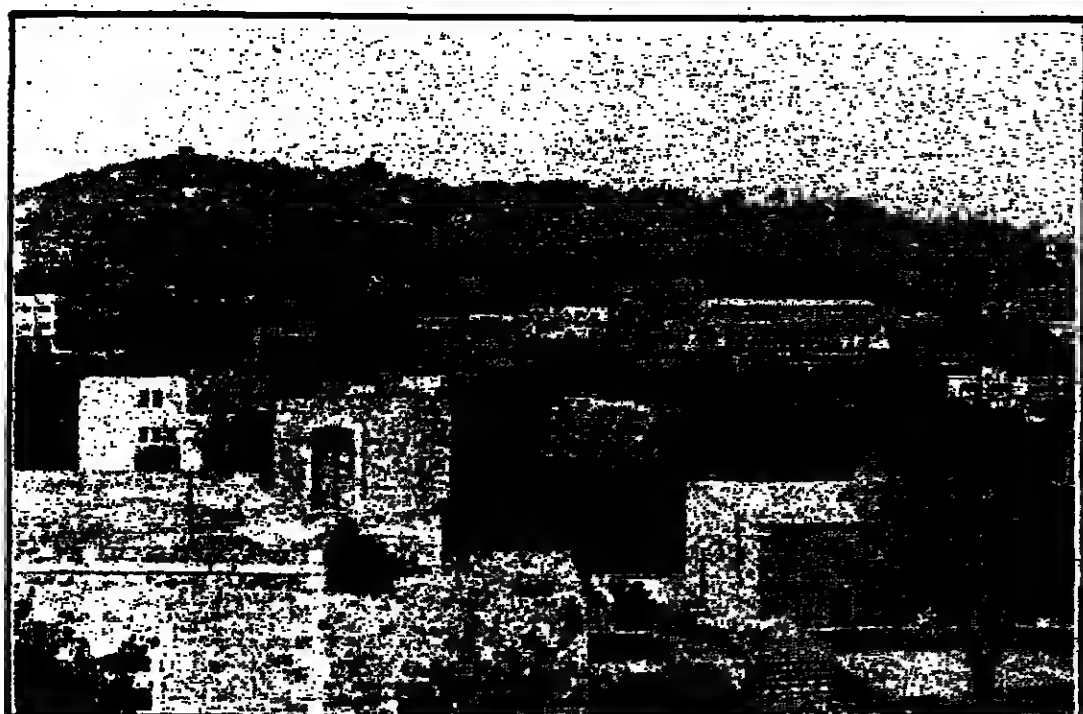
It said Labour, by concentrating on defence, had voluntarily distracted attention from areas where the government was most vulnerable, such as unemployment, poverty and the economy. "It is unilaterally disarming itself."

Most worrying of all for Labour however was the reaction of the authoritative left-wing weekly New Statesman, which normally supports the party.

Commenting that not a single major West European government would support the Labour position, it urged the party to change its policy. "It has two compelling reasons for doing so: first, to make the process of arms reduction both more stable and more likely and second, to assist the defeat of the Conservative government."



The leader's new clothes — (part of)



View towards Bethlehem from the Bassous home



Children waiting for their meal at the UNRWA Supplementary Feeding Centre in Bethlehem

Little Christmas joy for Bethlehem refugee family

BETHLEHEM — Palestine refugee Jack Saliba Bassous, age 11, is literally the man of the house for his family living just outside Bethlehem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Since the death of his father three years ago, Jack has been registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as the head of one of 221 Palestine refugee families in the Bethlehem area who receive "special hardship" assistance from the agency. Jack's family consists of his non-refugee mother, Margo, a Bethlehem native; two sisters, 10-year-old Rania and six-year-old Jane; and a baby brother, Elias, age two.

This will be a rough Christmas for the Bassous family, who are among some 10,000 Christian Palestinian Arabs living in and around Bethlehem.

No regular income

The family has no regular income. Mrs. Bassous, who is in her forties, is a qualified teacher of

the Arabic language, and until recently worked perhaps four months a year as a part-time or relieving teacher in Bethlehem area schools. Since the sudden death of her husband, however, she has had to concentrate on her own children, especially the two younger ones. The small income she used to earn from teaching — 40 Jordanian dinars, or about \$120 a month — can no longer be counted on. There are no other relatives in the area, apart from her elderly mother, to help them out. The three older children attend schools in Bethlehem and so far this year they have not been able to pay their school fees.

"I have no one to give me anything," says Mrs. Bassous despairingly. "Any money I get goes only to pay the rent and to put food on the table for the children."

The rent for the house, an old stone building overlooking the mostly Christian West Bank town of Beit Jala, is 20 dinars, or \$60, a month. Before her husband died,

the family had fallen behind in the rent and the landlord's threat to evict them still hangs over them.

Education first

As a former teacher, Mrs. Bassous places the greatest emphasis on education for her children. She sends them to school that teaches French, as well as English and Arabic, and she tutors them at home in all three languages: this will give them a better chance to get ahead in the future, she says. One of the saddest pieces of furniture in the tiny front room of their house is an old school desk at which the children do their homework.

The assistance provided by UNRWA to the Bassous family and other "special hardship case" families is limited: monthly food rations of flour, sugar, cooking oil, corned beef, tomato paste, burghol and skim-milk powder, plus blankets, used winter and summer clothing and a tiny cash allowance. This assistance goes to

individual refugees such as widows, orphans and old people living alone and to needy refugee families without a male breadwinner. Eleven-year-old Jack Bassous qualifies as an orphan and he and his siblings are eligible for UNRWA assistance.

There are some 16,000 registered Palestine refugees in the Bethlehem-Bait Jala area and in nearby Beit Sahour, site of the "Shepherd's Field" of the Bible, where Christ's birth was first proclaimed. Another 6,000 refugees live in Dheisheh camp, south of Bethlehem, which has its own UNRWA schools and health centre, while receiving some services from Mayor Elias Freij's Bethlehem Municipality.

These camps were established in 1949 by Palestine refugees arriving from villages to the west and south which had become part of Israel (and, in many cases, been demolished). Deprived of their land, the refugees work mainly as labourers, many of them as daily-paid workers in Israeli

industry or agriculture. Economic recession has meant that these jobs are harder to come by.

The refugee influx transformed the dominant Christian character of Bethlehem and its neighbouring towns. Over 80 per cent of the area's Arab residents before 1922 were Christians — mostly Greek Orthodox and many belonging to families with roots in the area going back to the earliest Christian time. By 1961, two-thirds of Bethlehem's people were Muslims, while Beit Jala and Beit Sahour were around 40 per cent Muslims.

Christian-Muslim harmony

Today, a mosque sits prominently on one side of Bethlehem's Manger Square, directly opposite the 1,600-year-old Church of the Nativity which marks the traditional site of Christ's birth. The Muslim call to prayer is as common as the sound of church bells, symbolising the harmonious relations between the Muslim and

Christian communities. Still, even after 38 years — half of them under Israeli occupation together with their hosts — the refugees of Bethlehem long to be somewhere else. UNRWA educates their children, provides them with the basics of health care and tries to help the very neediest among them while the search for a solution goes on.

One recent bright but chilly morning, about 75 Palestine refugee children, many inadequately clothed for winter, huddled outside an old stone Bethlehem house, with crosses embossed above the doors and worked into the design of the wrought-iron balcony, waiting to receive a midday meal from UNRWA. The meal served by the Beit Jala supplementary feeding centre was simple: beans, bread and an orange. For many of the children, it will be the only hot meal of the day. It is another Christmas without much joy for the Palestine refugees of Bethlehem — UNRWA feature.



Margo Bassous and her children Rania (10), Jane (6), Jack (11) and Elias (2 1/2)



The Bassous children play on the balcony of their modest hillside home overlooking Bethlehem

Unsung home of the unsung hack: the news agency

By Klaus Altmann

NEWS agencies play a huge role in news gathering and distribution. Yet few people know much about them.

Most people, if they know anything about news agencies at all, know them only as initials at the beginning of a news report; for example "Managua, dpa/upi" or Tokyo, ap/rtr/aip.

The initiated know that these initials stand for Deutsche Presse-Agentur, the American agencies United Press International and Associated Press, Reuters in London and Agence France-Presse in Paris.

Sometimes other news sources appear in reports such as Xinhua (the People's Republic of China), TASS (USSR) or ADN (East Germany), and agency names that are not so familiar worldwide, such as Montane, KPL or Petra — Mongolia, Laos and Jordan.

To all outward appearances a news agency is very little different from a national newspaper.

All the activity usually goes on in the huge news-room, invariably with desks grouped together with display screens and telephones.

There are telephones in the background or in another room,

maps and lists of important telephone numbers on the walls, and everywhere the rattle of typewriters, scraps of conversation, ringing telephones and voices from a radio.

But even the most important newspapers do not have the resources of a news agency, that offers a wide network of correspondents at home and abroad and an enormous output.

Reuters has 5,500 employees, almost 900 of them journalists. In a day the agency handles about 300,000 incoming words to make up reports totalling two millions words in news services distributed in several different languages throughout the world.

Deutsche Presse-Agentur, dpa, has a "basic service" of about 400 reports a day. These cover five sectors, home and foreign news, economic and cultural affairs and sport, distributed from the agency's Hamburg headquarters. If these 400 reports were printed they would be enough for a book.

To this can be added the daily output of the regional offices extending from Kiel to Munich, and the overseas services, located at the Hamburg headquarters, covering Latin America, Asia/Africa and the Middle East,

in part distributed in foreign languages.

Finally there are special services covering themes from environmental protection to social affairs and science.

A news agency operates very much like a newspaper. Its reporters go to press conferences covering national or regional affairs or commerce, and they cover parliament.

They simply cover the news. If there is a demonstration at a nuclear power plant, agency reporters and cameramen go.

If the news is red-hot it is put on a mini-computer and passed to the office by telephone.

If the news item is not so urgent it is put into story form back at the office, but not using a typewriter, on a large video monitor screen.

This report is passed from the reporters' video screen to the day or night editor's video and from there, after having been subbed, by telecommunications links to the agency's customers, who can include apart from newspapers, radio and television, political parties and commercial companies.

Agency reports are used complete by many newspapers. This means that the same report is

reproduced in several newspapers.

A normal working day at dpa headquarters: At seven in the morning the early shift takes over from the night shift.

By about nine every department is fully manned, and about 45 minutes later a conference takes place, attended by the dpa hierarchy, from the editor-in-chief to the heads of the various news departments. They sift through news forecasts and snippets of information, and discuss what they will do.

Meanwhile, news items are passed by computer from video monitor to video monitor. Information is passed to bureaux abroad by telex. The day's work is now well under way.

The most hectic time is between midday and 8 p.m. One report after another comes in, is put on the computer and passed to the department head's "parent computer."

A screen illuminated with a red light shows how many news reports are waiting attention and their order of priority.

The order of precedence is normal, priority, urgent and top priority.

Completed reports are pushed

out with a priority rating and a theme slug.

A news item rated top priority, reporting the death of a VIP, or a severe accident or an assassination attempt automatically takes precedence.

During the night news flashes put out marked with at least ten bell rings so as to alert customers' editors-in-chief.

The head of the department delegates most of the work at the press of a key to his news writers, who sit in front of a "daughter" monitor screen.

On these screens appear the resumes of what has been written for the day or reports that have come in from correspondents that have had to be re-written or expanded with background information.

Even in the age of the video screen monitor this can only be done whilst the other sources are to hand in the form of print-outs.

No-one can deny that there is an atmosphere of the great wide world in a news agency, even if the days when Israel Beer Josephat supplied news from the Brussels stock exchange to Aachen by carrier pigeon are long past.

Josephat was born in Kassel. In 1844 he was converted to

Christianity and changed his name to Reuter. Eleven years later he moved to London. From there he reported stock exchange quotations to Paris by cable. Seven years later Reuter was supplying the main newspapers of Europe with news.

Today the agency that he founded, headquartered in London's Fleet Street, is one of the five leading agencies in the world, along with AP, UPI, AFP and TASS.

The three Reuter news centres in London, New York and Hong Kong cover from one weekend to the next the three main commercial regions of the world without a break.

The company now only earns seven per cent of its income from the sale of "pure news items."

The lion's share is earned from reporting economic indices, market quotations, news from the stock exchange, the European currency markets, commodity exchanges, futures and so on.

This information is passed over a network by 71,500 video screen monitors to customers all over the world. Journalism and commerce are bed-fellows — Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg

Experiment results in history's worst nuclear accident

By Bryan Wilder
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — At 1:23 a.m. Saturday, April 26, operators of a Soviet nuclear power plant in the Ukraine were conducting an unauthorised experiment: How long would a turbine generator keep running after shutting off the steam from a 1,000-megawatt reactor?

Ten seconds later, the experiment turned into the worst nuclear power plant disaster in history.

A huge fireball roared up out of the reactor and deadly radiation spewed into the air. The accident killed two people immediately and 29 more over the next seven months. Experts say it could bring death and deformity to unborn generations.

The explosion in reactor No. 4 at the Chernobyl plant, 128 kilometres north of Kiev, sent invisible radiation across the Ukrainian countryside, northwest across Scandinavia and eventually around the globe.

Scores of Soviets were hospitalised for radiation exposure, tens of thousands increased their risk of terminal cancer and nearly 130,000 were forced to leave their contaminated homes.

The accident happened when steam produced by the reactor, unable to go to the turbine, reached tremendous pressure. The reactor power surged from 6 per cent to 50 per cent of its normal level; cooling systems that might have controlled the effects had been shut off as part of the operators' experiments.

Water combined with the graphite in the reactor's core and produced hydrogen, which exploded, ripping open the core and setting fire to the surrounding building.

Firefighters battled the flames for four hours to stop the fire from spreading to the adjacent reactor No. 3. Some firefighters collapsed and eventually died from the radiation emanating from the ruptured core.

A southeasterly wind spread cesium-134, iodine-131 and strontium across northern and central Europe.

For almost 72 hours, the Soviets remained silent. Even the 50,000 residents of Pripyat, the community closest to the reactor, were not evacuated until Sunday afternoon, April 27.

For the rest of the world, the first clue came on the morning of April 28 when a worker set off a radiation alarm at Sweden's Forsmark nuclear power station, about 1,600 kilometres to the northeast.

The soles of his shoes were found to carry increased levels of radiation.

Swedish monitoring devices had recorded what was happening the previous 24 hours but their data was not read until the following day.

Then began the detective work that eventually pointed to the Soviet Union.

"Our first thought was that the radiation came from inside the (Forsmark) reactor buildings. One doesn't think there can be more contamination outside a reactor building than inside it," recalled Forsmark spokesman Lennart Franzon.

But the telltale signs began showing up at civilian and military monitoring stations elsewhere in Sweden.

The main clue was dust caught in a filter at the defence research agency's monitoring station in Stockholm. A rush analysis showed it didn't come from some unannounced nuclear weapons test.

The Swedes checked with colleagues in Finland, who reported radiation levels six times normal. Denmark and Norway reported more modest increases, confirming suspicions.

That Monday, Swedish Energy Minister Birgitta Dahl told a news conference the evidence pointed

to "a certain country," but stopped short of naming the Soviet Union.

Meantime, diplomatic queries to Moscow and its European embassies met curt denials.

Finally, that evening, the Soviets issued a four-sentence report that an "accident" had occurred and that people had been "affected." It was the first acknowledgement of a nuclear power accident in the Soviet Union.

"They should... have warned us," said Dahl.

On Tuesday morning, April 29, Soviet envoys began calling on Swedish and West German nuclear experts, seeking advice on how to fight a reactor fire.

That night the Soviets announced there were two dead and first used the word "disaster." On Wednesday, it said 197 were hospitalised for radiation and burns.

West European governments and the United States demanded a full accounting.

Meanwhile, the Scandinavian countries detected traces of radiation in rainwater and milk. They ordered a temporary ban on food, produce and alcoholic beverages from the Soviet Union.

The World Health Organisation said on May 2 that no precautions appeared necessary for pregnant women and children outside the Soviet Union. But it said that while radioactive contamination was high, the children should not drink milk from grazing cows.

Stocks in nuclear utilities plummeted on the New York stock exchanges and anti-nuclear energy groups said the accident was one example of the kind of disasters they had feared.

On Friday, May 2, Boris Yeltsin, head of the Moscow city Communist Party and a close associate of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said on West German television that the disaster was due to human error.

That rare admission signaled a turning point in Moscow's public relations policy on Chernobyl. The rate of information accelerated in the ensuing weeks, with Soviet progress reports on efforts to smother the smoldering reactor with sand and lead.

On May 9, the fire was finally reported out. Then began a process of sealing it permanently in concrete.

Casualty reports were gradually updated to show that 31 had died, and as many as 300 others showed varying symptoms of radiation exposure.

Dr. Robert Gale, an American bone marrow specialist who helped treat victims, says the radiation likely will increase the risk of cancer for up to 100,000 people over the next 70 years.

The Soviet Communist Party's politburo said damage amounted to the equivalent of about \$2.6 billion, including loss of the reactor, disruption of electric power supplies, the effects on 1,040 square kilometres of contaminated land in the northern Ukraine and southern Byelorussia, and the closure of farms and factories.

Soviet media reported the expulsion from the Communist Party of Chernobyl's chief engineer and more than two dozen others for bungling, panic and negligence in connection with the disaster.

The stream of information culminated in a surprisingly candid 382-page report on Chernobyl presented in September at a convention of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

It admitted the Soviet Union's need to redesign its nuclear reactors and to locate them away from populated areas. The report also revealed that half the country's similar graphite reactors had been shut down for modifications.

Five hundred delegates from 50 countries, including the Soviet Union, adopted a treaty calling on nations to report nuclear accidents promptly.

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Chiefs clinch playoff berth

Lineup for NFL playoffs in almost set

NEW YORK (AP) — Kansas City is in, Seattle is out, Cincinnati isn't sure and the New York Jets continue to reel as the National Football League heads into the playoffs.

The Chiefs, 10-6, held off Pittsburgh 24-19 Sunday to clinch their first playoff berth since 1971 and complete only their second winning season in 13 years.

The Seahawks, who routed Denver 41-16 on Saturday, needed for either Kansas City or Cincinnati to lose on Sunday. Neither did, but the Bengals didn't clinch anything with their 52-21 mauling of the Jets.

The Bengals, who like Kansas City and Seattle finished 10-6, need a Miami victory over New England Monday night to make the playoffs.

The Jets, who stood at 10-1 with the best record in the league late in November, are in the playoffs despite a five-game losing streak. They will win the AFC East if the Dolphins down the Patriots.

Also on Sunday, Cleveland completed a fine season at 12-4, the best record in the AFC, with a 47-17 romp past San Diego. Tampa Bay clinched the first selection in next year's draft by losing 21-17 to St. Louis. Washington took Philadelphia 21-14. Minnesota defeated New Orleans 33-17. Atlanta downed Detroit 20-6, and Houston beat Buffalo 16-7.

In late games, Chicago beat Dallas 24-10, and Indianapolis won its third straight after 13 successive losses, upsetting the Los Angeles Raiders 30-24.

On Friday night, San Francisco clinched the AFC West crown with a 24-14 victory over the Los

Angeles Rams. The Rams will play at Washington in next Sunday's wild card.

In a Saturday game, the New York Giants secured the home-field advantage for the NFC playoffs with a 55-24 rout of the Green Bay Packers.

Chiefs 24, Steelers 19
The Chiefs took a 24-6 lead thanks to their special teams and, despite being outgained 515-171, held on. They lost quarterback Bill Kenney with a sprained thumb in the fourth quarter.

Bengals 52, Jets 21
Quarterback Boomer Esiason threw a team-record five touchdown passes, four in the second half, against the injury-depleted Jets defense. The Jets took a 21-17 halftime lead behind running back Freeman McNeil's two touchdowns and a 96-yard touchdown return by Bobby Humphrey with the opening kickoff.

Browns 47, Chargers 17
Bernie Kosar finished off a sensational regular season by throwing for 258 yards and two touchdowns, including a 57-yard bomb to Brian Brennan.

Cardinals 21, Buccaneers 17
Rookie Vai Sikahema, who is headed to the pro bowl as a kick returner, showed why as he went 71 and 60 yards for punt-return touchdowns in the second quarter.

Washington overcame a 14-0 deficit with three fourth-quarter touchdowns. Quarterback Jay

Schroeder hit Clint Didier for a 26-yard score and threw to Don Warren for two yards to tie the game. George Rogers got the winning TD on a 5-yard run that capped a 70-yard drive.

Vikings 33, Saints 17
With starter Tommy Kramer on the bench, Wade Wilson threw three touchdown passes as the Vikings finished with 398 points, breaking the team record of 383 set in 1965. It was the first time since 1980 that the Vikings won as many as nine games.

Falcons 20, Lions 6
Turf Schoert threw for one touchdown and Gerald Riggs ran for another for Atlanta, which finished 7-8-1. Detroit ended at 5-11 before 35,255 fans, the smallest crowd of the season at the Silverdome.

Oilers 16, Bills 7
Houston ruined Jim Kelly's homecoming as Tony Zendejas kicked field goals of 26, 51 and 22 yards. Kelly, who played for the USFL Houston Gamblers, lost 43 yards on six sacks, threw an interception and lost a fumble.

Bears 24, Cowboys 10
Doug Flutie, in his first NFL start, threw two touchdown passes and set up a third score for Chicago. Flutie hit touchdown passes of 58 yards to Neal Anderson and 33 yards to Willie Gault in the second quarter.

Colts 30, Raiders 24
Indianapolis closed out with its third consecutive win under Ron Meyer, who replaced Rod Dowhower as coach following the Colts' 13th straight loss. Gary Hogeboom's 11-yard touchdown pass to Bill Brooks with 7:32 remaining was the winning score.

Egypt's Zamalek clinches Africa's Champions' Cup

ABIDJAN (R) — Egypt walked off with Africa's two premier club soccer trophies after Zamalek clinched the Champions' Cup on penalties despite losing the second leg of the final 2-0 to Ivory Coast's Africa Sports Sunday.

Cheered on by 60,000 fans, Africa Sports came back from its 2-0 defeat in Cairo at the end of November to square the tie at 2-2. But the visitor won a tense penalty shoot-out 4-2 and, like compatriot National who won the Cup Winners' Cup, will display a continental trophy in Egypt next year.

In a match played at a frenetic pace, Zamalek defied predictions that it would sit on its lead and try to slow the game down.

It created several early chances, with centre-forward Gamal Abdel Hamid heading narrowly wide after 30 minutes.

But the home side stepped up the pressure and opened the score on the stroke of half-time when Guede Bha hurried a left-foot volley in the roof of the net after visiting keeper Tarek mispunched a free-kick.

Spurred by the goal, the

youthful Ivorians renewed their attacks and squared the overall score after 56 minutes when captain Emile Gnabore was pulled down in the Egyptian penalty area after a surging 50-metre run.

Eighteen-year-old Lue Ruffin calmly sent Tarek the wrong way from the penalty spot.

But the more experienced Egyptians soaked up the pressure and then hit back. Only a reaction goal-line clearance from Ruffin prevented striker Gamal scoring from a fierce drive after 80 minutes.

Guede Bha missed a gilt-edged chance to clinch overall victory for the Ivory Coastside in injury time and the match went to a penalty shoot-out, where the Egyptians' experience proved decisive.

With Zamalek 3-2 up after four penalties taken by each side, the visitor's midfielder general Ashraf Kassem stroked the ball home to give it an unassailable lead.

Ivorian Victor Aka was booked after 70 minutes for a late tackle but the contest was otherwise played in a sporting spirit.

Lakers surge to beat Houston

NEW YORK (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers' embarrassing loss to the Houston Rockets in the National Basketball Association playoffs last season is becoming a distant memory.

With Magic Johnson collecting a season-high 38 points and 16 assists, the Lakers outscored Houston 17-5 down the stretch for a 103-96 victory Sunday night.

Houston, with twin towers Akeem Olatunji and Ralph Sampson, appeared to be the dominant power in the Western Conference just a few months ago. Now, however, Los Angeles is 19-6 and the injury-plagued Rockets 9-15.

The Lakers outrebounded the Rockets 48-37 despite the absence of Center Kareem Abdul Jabbar, due to an eye problem. Forward A.C. Green had a career-high 16 rebounds and 18 points.

The Rockets led 98-86 with 4:29 left, but Johnson scored eight points down the stretch to key the 17-5 surge.

"We showed a lot of grit and character in this win," Riley said. "I told the team that we had to keep our turnovers to a minimum and look for good shot selection. We did that."

Boxing champion Honeyghan gives up title over apartheid

LONDON (AP) — World welterweight champion Lloyd Honeyghan said Monday he was giving up the World Boxing Association portion of his undisputed crown because of South Africa's racial policies.

Honeyghan said he wanted to avoid the possibility of defending his WBA title against a South African, Harold Volbrecht. American Mark Breland is scheduled to meet Volbrecht in what had been billed as a final WBA eliminator for a shot at Honeyghan.

"If I agree to fight a South African, I could not look at myself in the mirror," Honeyghan, who is black, said. "It breaks my heart to give up the championship so soon after winning it, but I made my

position clear several years ago. "To me, it would be like supporting the things that have happened out there."

Honeyghan, a West Indies native who now lives in London, won the world title earlier this year with a sixth-round knockout of American Donald Curry in Atlantic City, N.J.

He is scheduled to defend the championship against another U.S. boxer, Johnny Bumphus, in London on Feb. 22. Because of Monday's announcement, that bout will cover only the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Council welterweight titles.

The WBC has said repeatedly that it would consider barring any champion who defended against a South African or against a fighter who won an elimination bout from a South African.

It also has a policy of banning for life any champion who works in South Africa.

Records tumble in India-Sri Lanka cricket

KANPUR, India (AP) — The rain-marred first cricket test between India and Sri Lanka was drawn Monday after several records tumbled in a mammoth Indian innings.

The match ended without either side opening its second innings. In reply to the visitor's first-innings total of 420, the Indians finished with 676 for seven.

Three of the Indian batsmen scored more than 150 runs each. One of them, Mohammed Azharuddin, was unlucky to miss a double century by one run.

Azharuddin, who eclipsed his previous best knock of 122 against England, attempted to lift Ravi Ratnayake but was trapped leg-before.

Captain Kapil Dev, who slammed a hurricane 163, earlier fell in a similar fashion to Ratnayake, who with four victims emerged the match's most successful bowler.

Dev and Azharuddin partnered in a marathon 272-run sixth-wicket stand to the delight of 20,000 partisan spectators at Kanpur's Modi Stadium. They took the score from 399 to 671 when the more aggressive Dev returned to the pavilion.

Alcott, Charles win 3-way golf playoff

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica (R) — Arny Alcott calmly sank a 12-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a three-team, sudden-death playoff to snatch victory for himself and partner Bob Charles in the \$500,000 Mixed Team Golf Championship.

American Alcott and New Zealander Charles closed with three successive birdies from the 15th hole but missed a chance for a fourth at the 18th to finish with a 64 for a 20-under-par 193 total for the three-man tournament.

Then they had to endure some anxious moments as two teams — Billy Casper and Jan Stephenson and Jim Ferree and Ayako Okamoto — also squandered birdie chances at the last and forced a three-way play-off for the title for the second successive year.

Each team carved out birdie opportunities at the first extra hole, the par-five 345 yard 15th. Stephenson went first, but the Australian watched her 15-foot effort roll up inches short of the cup.

After Alcott rammed her putt firmly home, she had to watch American Ferree then Japan's Okamoto miss their chances, although Okamoto's attempt from 10 feet ran over the hole and bounced off the back of the cup.

Casper had earlier birdied the 16th and 17th holes as he and Stephenson closed with a 66. Ferree and Okamoto carded birdies on the 15th and 17th for a final round 65.

Maradona, Navratilova named sports figures of the year by AP poll

LONDON (AP) — Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to victory at the World Cup in Mexico, and tennis ace Martina Navratilova were chosen as international sportsman and sportswoman of 1986 by the Sports Writers of the Associated Press in Europe.

Maradona, whose individual skills and teamwork helped Argentina clinch its second world

Mediterranean climate spawns three league leading teams

LONDON (R) — The Mediterranean coastline's unrivalled attractions for holidaymakers may be augmented by the addition of championship-winning European soccer clubs next June if the current form of three revitalised teams continues.

After the last weekend before the mid-season break for much of Europe, Olympique Marseille, regenerated by Michel Hidalgo, sits on top in France. Diego Maradona's Napoli rules in Italy and Barcelona, leads in Spain.

Of the three, only Marseille failed to win when it was held to a 0-0 draw at Laval while its chief rival Bordeaux remained level on points, but behind on goal difference, at the top following a similar result at Nîmes.

The French will not resume until Feb. 28. It is the longest mid-season break for them yet, but has been well-received.

Marseille is going to Tahiti to train and play three games against local teams after Christmas, hoping to be finely tuned for a run-in to the title in the spring.

Napoli, seeking a first Italian title, maintained its unbeaten record with a 2-1 victory over Como and was given further cause to celebrate as defending champion Juventus crashed 4-1 at Sampdoria.

Juventus' coach Rino Marchesi, who succeeded Giovanni Trapattoni in the close season, partly blamed Danish World Cup striker Michael Laudrup for the continuing woes.

"He messed up another goal which could have reversed the

match," he said, making an oblique reference to Laudrup's missed opportunities in defeats by Real Madrid, in the European Cup, and Napoli, at home, in the Italian League.

Maradona contented himself by remarking that Napoli was growing stronger every day — but should have scored more goals than the two supplied by Luigi Cafferelli against defensive experts Como.

Napoli's biggest challenge may now come not from Turin, but Milan. Internazionale lies second, two points behind, after an emphatic 3-0 defeat of Ascoli, and AC Milan is third, following a fine 2-1 win away to Roma.

Italian World Cup striker Alessandro Altobelli inspired Internazionale, now guided by Trapattoni's experienced eye, while Milan, without its English international Ray Wilkins and Mark Hateley, was assisted by Pope John Paul, who blessed the club on Saturday morning.

Antonio Virdis scored both goals and chairman Silvio Berlusconi was generous in his thanks. "I want to say well done and thanks to all the players as well as to the Pope because his blessing helped us," he said.

In Spain, Barcelona maintained a one point lead over defending champion, Real Madrid.

Barcelona beat Real Mallorca 3-1 with goals from Spanish midfielder Victor Munoz, England striker Gary Lineker and midfielder Roberto Fernandez while Madrid won 1-0 away at Las Palmas thanks to an own goal from Juanito Rodriguez.

Four yachts in challenger semifinals declared legal

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Following extensive testing, all four semifinal challengers for the America's Cup, including New Zealand's controversial fiberglass entry, were declared legal on Monday.

The testing included drilling an unspecified number of holes in the New Zealand boat.

Michael Fay, the Auckland investment banker who heads the New Zealand Syndicate, said he agreed to the drilling "somewhat against my better judgment to end all this lunatic and sometimes irresponsible talk" about whether New Zealand was breaking the rules.

"I'd like everyone to agree 'let's go sailing,'" said Fay.

Dennis Conner, skipper of the San Diego Yacht Club's Stars and Stripes, had said no one would build a fiberglass 12-metre cup yacht "unless he wanted to cheat."

The other challengers are made of aluminum. Robert Hopkins, measurement representative for Stars and Stripes, said, "I feel no aluminum or fiberglass boat is cheating."

He said news of the clearance of the semifinal yachts had been radioed to Conner, who was practising at sea, and that the

American skipper was "100 per cent happy with the results."

Fay said New Zealand's position since the challengers' elimination began in October had been "none of tolerance."

"Some of the comments have been lunatic and irresponsible and very close to libel," Fay said, adding that further repetition "could easily end up in court."

Conner had tried unsuccessfully to enlist the other cup challengers to demand core samples of New Zealand's hull.

The resurvey and remeasurement of New Zealand, Stars and Stripes, San Francisco-based USA and French Kiss were completed Sunday and the results announced Monday by Commodore Gianfranco Alberini of the Costa Smeralda Yacht Club of Italy, which is conducting the challenge series.

He said the remeasurement was done by England's Tony Watts and the resurvey by Lloyd's Registry, the world authority on shipbuilding specifications known as scantlings.

New Zealand, which lost only once in the three round-robin series, faces French Kiss in the semifinals, while USA meets Stars and Stripes.

In addition, she led the U.S. team to victory in the Federation Cup, when she returned to her native Czechoslovakia for the first time since defecting in 1975 and beat Hana Mandlikova in an emotional final against the host nation.

Swiss dominate women's skiing events

VALZOLDANA, Italy (AP) — It's becoming easier to count the World Cup races lost by Swiss skiers than the ones they have won.

As expected, the powerful Swiss women's squad stormed off to a triumphant start this season, taking eight out of 11 races and sweeping the top spots in the overall standings.

World Cup overall champion Maria Walliser, Vreni Schneider and veteran Erika Hess won two World Cup races each while Michela Figini and Corinne Schmickhauser took one apiece.

The latest Swiss victory, the second within 24 hours, was scored here Sunday by Hess in a special slalom.

Hess edged teammate Brigitte Oertli in a replay of the Waterville Valley slalom last month while the Austrians, still devoid of wins this season, did not rise higher than the third place of Claudia Strobl.

Another Austrian, Ida Ladstätter, had the opportunity to upset the dominant Swiss team, but dropped out after only five seconds in the second heat, after clocking the fastest first run.

Hess achieved in Valzoldana, in

northeast Italy, her 31st World Cup victory, helping ensure the overall title would be an all-Swiss affair.

Walliser, who won a giant slalom here Saturday, is the current overall leader with 110 points. She was followed by Schneider with 106, Hess with 92 and Oertli with 85.

Tamara McKinney, of Olympic Valley, California, is fifth overall with 81, followed by Figini and Schmickhauser, who piled up 64 and 61 points respectively.

McKinney, West German Michaela Gerg and Canadian Laurie Graham looked like aliens in a competition dominated by Switzerland's red-and-white crossed flag.

McKinney, who leads the slalom standings in a 65-point tie with Oertli, failed to add any points Sunday as she dropped out in the first heat. The weekend races in this valley was disappointing for the U.S. team, which failed to place a skier within the top ten.

But McKinney, who had two runnerup places and a victory in this season's slalom events, said she polished high hopes for the coming cup races as she was skiing with growing confidence and concentration.

The next opportunity will be a slalom and a giant slalom in Maribor, Yugoslavia, Jan. 3-4.

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Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the Switchyard Island Tender Document No. 54/86, for the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, Stage II is available for purchase as of 22 December 1986.

The Tender consists of the design, supply, delivery, erection, testing and commissioning of 400/132/33 kV GIS Switchgear with related Switchyard auxiliaries. The Switchyard Island Contract will be financed from part of the World Bank's loan which is expected to be assigned for the Aqaba Thermal Power Plant, Stage II. Subsequently, only TENDERERS from World Bank Countries in addition to Switzerland and Taiwan, China are invited to participate in this Tender.

Sealed Tenders shall be submitted to the Tendering Committee before 10.00 a.m. Amman Time, 31 March, 1987 at the JEA Offices in Amman accompanied by a security bond of 67,700 JD (sixty seven thousand seven hundred Jordanian Dinars).

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10.00 a.m., Amman local time on March 31st at the Offices of JEA. Tender Documents are available from the address given below for a nonrefundable fee of JD 250 payable to JEA for each set consisting of two copies of the Tender Documents.

Jordan Electricity Authority
Post Office Box 2310
Amman, Jordan
Telex: 21259/23270

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Shmeisani near Birds Gardens
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TO LET
A second floor apartment, consisting of two
bedrooms, a combined sitting, dining room, kitchen,
one bathroom, and central heating.
Location: Jabal El Weibdeh
Tel: 636212

FOR RENT
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bathrooms, salon, dining room, L-shaped sitting room, separate
central heating, separate entrance, deluxe finishing, modern
building, interior; the house is thermally insulated.
Location: Southern Um Al Summaq, end of Abdullah Ghosheh
Street, behind Jabr commercial complex and near Pizza Hut
restaurant.
Pis call 664869 Amman.

Cinema Tel: 677420
CONCORD
HOWARD
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 625155
RAINBOW
RAWDEAL
Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675573
OPERA
WHITE NIGHTS
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420
PLAZA
TOP GUN
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198
RAGHADAN
**Juliano Jima
IN
TEX**
Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4405/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3775/85	Canadian dollars
	1.9850/60	West German marks
	2.2440/50	Dutch guilders
	1.6625/40	Swiss francs
	41.28/33	Belgian francs
	6.5150/5200	French francs
	1378/1379	Italian lire
	162.70/80	Japanese yen
	6.8850/8900	Swedish crowns
	7.5300/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.5150/5200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	395.50/396.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares prices stood firm in late trading on the first day of the long three week account with the market helped mainly by OPEC's second week to limit production and lift prices, dealers said. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 15.8 at 1,648.0.

OPEC agreed to cut production to 15.8 million barrels a day in the first half of 1987 and to return to a fixed price system at \$18 a barrel but Iraq did not agree to the output cut.

Equities were also helped by a newspaper Gallup opinion poll at the weekend showing Britain's Conservative Party 8.5 per cent ahead of the opposition Labour Party.

Dealers noted that inflation-sensitive stocks such as stores were aided by a Confederation of British Industry (CBI) survey showing pay settlements in U.K. manufacturing industry were the lowest for 10 years. In the stores sector, Great Universal Stores (GUS) added 12p to 1,022, Woolworth 20p to 685, Burton 11p to 271 ex-dividend and Storehouse 14p to 277.

Oils were firm on the OPEC output accord and firmer North Sea oil prices but both oil shares and North Sea crude prices pared the early gains in places.

Arab Monetary Fund to lend Tunisia \$13m

ABU DHABI (R) — Tunisia is to get a loan of 3.75 million Arab Accounting Dinars (\$13.02 million) from the Arab Monetary Fund to support the government's plans to improve the economy, Tunisian officials said Monday.

They told Reuters that Tunisia's balance of payments had been under pressure for the last three years because of drought and a decrease in the value of the country's exports.

Third of Soviet firms fail to meet '86 contracts

MOSCOW (AP) — Almost a third of the public enterprises in the Soviet Union have failed to meet their contract commitments under the nation's 1986 economic plan, Pravda reported Monday.

The Communist Party daily said Soviet industrial output had increased by 4.9 per cent in the first 11 months of 1986 compared with the same period a year earlier. It did not provide production statistics.

Pravda quoted the first deputy chairman of the State Planning Agency as saying some factory and enterprise officials and workers were still confused about economic and planning reforms that are to be implemented on Jan. 1.

"Not all members of labour collectives understand clearly and adequately the goals and essence of the new methods, or their responsibility and own interest in the achievement of high results of work by the entire enterprise," Mr. Stefan A. Sinyaryan was quoted as saying.

In 1987, Soviet factories and enterprises in certain sectors, including petrochemicals, light industry and automobile production, will change over to a "self-accounting system," under which local officials will be free to make decisions and dispose of any profits.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has undertaken a campaign to increase economic productivity and introduce more effective means of planning and quality control.

China sets up new airline

PEKING (AP) — A new Chinese airline expected to help break the aviation monopoly of the much-criticized state-run airline will officially begin service on Jan. 1, the China Daily said Monday.

The English-language daily said China United Airlines, established with the help of the Chinese air force, plans to have more than 20 routes connecting Peking with major cities.

The airline grew out of a smaller company, the United China Airlines, which has been operating since 1984 with 11 routes to such tourist cities as Suzhou, Hangzhou, Fuzhou and Chengdu.

CAAC, which carried 7.5 million passengers last year, is often criticised for poor service, overcrowding, delays and cancellations.

Several other local airlines are also now in business for short-range passenger and cargo service. The air force began charter service in 1984 and in the first 10 months of this year carried 250,000 passengers, China Daily said.

Earlier reports said the air force will provide fuel, crews and food for the new airlines, which will fly in and out of Peking's military airport at Nanyuan in the southern suburbs.

Bahrain borrows from local banks through treasury bills

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain has raised two million dinars (\$5.3 million) from local banks through a heavily oversubscribed first offering of treasury bills.

The Bahrain Monetary Agency, the island's central bank, said that banks entered bids for almost eight million dinars (\$21 million).

Bahrain, although only a small oil producer, has been hit along with other Gulf states by the slide in world crude prices and decided earlier this year to tap local banks for funds.

Finance and National Economy Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim warned in a newspaper interview that although Bahrain was riding out the economic storm, 1987 would be a year of tight government expenditure.

By issuing treasury bills, 91-day obligations of the state of Bahrain, the government is taking advantage of surplus liquidity in the banking system to fund its budget deficit.

A monetary agency spokesman said the government is expected to offer two million dinars (\$5.3 million) of bills each week.

Oil prices surge to \$18 a barrel

LONDON (Agencies) — The free market oil price rose to touch \$18 a barrel Monday in early reaction to the weekend agreement on new cuts in output by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), traders reported.

The group has set \$18 — a rise of about 20 per cent on average prices in the free market over recent months — as its 1987 goal.

Its new agreement, reached in Geneva on Saturday, says all its crude oil will be fixed at \$18 from February.

When trading began in the free market Monday morning, after the weekend break, operators' immediate reaction was that the production cuts agreed by OPEC would indeed tighten the supply/demand balance.

Towards mid-morning, crude for February delivery from Britain's North Sea Brent field, a widely-traded variety and an oil industry pricing "barometer," was traded at \$18, up \$1.40 on last Friday, market participants said.

A little later, however, the market felt that the rally had been overdone and prices slipped, with a trade being done below \$17.50.

The OPEC accord, from which one of the 13 members, Iraq, excluded itself, proposes to cut the overall output by about one million barrels daily, to around 16 million.

From February, OPEC also plans to abandon selling in line with free market pricing ideas and set a take-it-or-leave-it price for its oil at an average \$18.

Market analysts say February may see the agreement really put to the test in the market.

The OPEC agreement buoyed the price of gold Monday morning. Gold began in Zurich at \$394.25 an ounce, up \$1.50 on its Friday close in New York.

Investors favour gold if they see a whiff of inflation hardy soared on the OPEC news.

Financial experts say an \$18 price is likely to give only a very slight nudge to inflation, with petrol and heating oil price rises likely to only around either side of five per cent in most cases.

They note that oil prices were at \$30 a year ago, and say that all OPEC is doing is regaining some of the ground which it lost when the market collapsed in a bout of ruinous overproduction this summer.

The dollar was little changed

from Friday's New York close of 1.9940 West German marks in Europe Monday morning. It began in Frankfurt at 1.9980.

But OPEC steered the British pound sterling which was worth \$1.44 in mid-morning, from \$1.4330 late on Friday. Low prices for North Sea Oil have robbed the British economy of revenue.

Egypt hails OPEC deal

Meanwhile, Egyptian Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil was quoted on Monday as welcoming OPEC's agreement to cut oil production and pledging that Egypt will cooperate with the group.

In remarks published by the state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram, Mr. Kandil also urged cooperation among producers inside and outside OPEC to push oil prices up to \$25 a barrel.

"Egypt supports OPEC's return to the system of fixed prices and is keen on cooperating and coordinating with all oil-producing countries in and outside OPEC to achieve stability in the world market and gradually increase prices," Mr. Kandil told the newspaper.

He added that Egypt "continues to emphasise the

necessity of cooperation to bring the price of oil to \$25 a barrel."

That figure would be "an economical price for all producing and consuming parties and would encourage oil companies to explore and produce and cover their costs profitably," he said.

Mr. Kandil said he believes the OPEC agreement "will achieve positive results provided all producers stick to it and stop selling at prices below the posted ones."

Egypt is not a member of OPEC but it is guided by the group's actions in fixing its own export prices.

Mr. Kandil and President Hosni Mubarak had talks on Sunday with Dr. Mana Saeed Oteiba, oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, which is among OPEC's 13 members. Dr. Oteiba said he did not ask Egypt to cut its production.

The state-run Middle East News Agency on Sunday carried an interview with Mr. Kandil in which he said Egypt will maintain its production level at 870,000 barrels daily through 1987. It was not clear whether Mr. Kandil granted the interview before or after Dr. Oteiba's arrival Saturday night.

Egypt consumes about 450,000 barrels a day and exports the rest.

S. Arabia rules out rial devaluation

BAHRAIN (R) — The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) says it has no plans at present to devalue the Saudi rial, bankers said Monday.

They said SAMA Governor Hamad Al Sayari told the general managers of the kingdom's 11 commercial banks Sunday that no parity change was planned and cautioned the market about speculation against the rial.

There had been rumours in the rial currency market, based in the kingdom and Bahrain, that Saudi Arabia might devalue to boost the effective value of its oil exports.

The speculation, which drove up short-term rial interbank rates, centred on a devaluation timed to coincide with the new Saudi budget, due to be announced on Dec. 29.

Bankers said Sunday's meeting, called at short notice, suggested that Saudi Arabia's budget planners had ruled out a devaluation for the time being, probably because of the expected rise in oil revenues stemming from OPEC's accord in Geneva to cut output and return to a fixed pricing system.

SAMA devalued the rial by 2.7 per cent against the dollar on June 1, bringing it to 3.75 to the U.S. currency.

Markets speculation had centred on a devaluation to 3.90 and banks had borrowed short-dated rial deposits, particularly over one month, to swap into dollars.

Banks borrow short dated rial deposits

One banker said Sheikh Sayari made clear that it would be unadvisable to speculate against the rial.

Some bankers said his warning recalled SAMA's move in 1984 when it revalued the rial, only to devalue it few weeks later. The move was widely seen as teaching an expensive lesson to banks which had speculated against the rial.

The rial interbank market was hectic Monday as news of the meeting became known. Trading was complicated by a sharp rise in short-dated Eurodollar deposits.

One-month rial deposits declined sharply and were offered at 10 per cent after initially being quoted as high as 11.10%.

The spot rial traded at 3.7518/23 to the dollar after levels as weak as 3.7535/45 on Saturday.

Japan plans to give more aid to Third World

TOKYO (R) — Japan plans to provide extra money to the World Bank for the establishment of a special fund to help developing countries, government officials said Monday.

They said the scheme was designed to recycle part of Japan's huge export earnings back to the Third World through a mixture of government and private-sector money.

Details of the plan remain hazy and have yet to be formally accepted by the tight-fisted finance ministry. But officials said it aimed to provide a couple of billion dollars to the World Bank over a three year period starting next April.

With its trade surplus expected to soar to over \$80 billion this year, Japan has come under mounting pressure to use some of its riches to help the Third World.

Responding to that pressure, Japan announced plans in late

Riyadh denies commitment to push oil output on Iraq.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia said Monday it did not make any commitment to persuade Iraq to abide by a new OPEC accord to cut oil production to push up prices.

Iraq was the only member of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) to refuse to accept new quotas under the accord to rein in output by an average 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels per day (b/d) for the first six months of 1987.

Tehran radio had quoted Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh as saying Saudi Arabia would see Iraq adhere to the agreement if Baghdad did not do so voluntarily. If Saudi Arabia failed, he said, Iran would try to have Iraq expelled from OPEC.

Saudi Arabia is one of Baghdad's major backers in the six-year-long Iran-Iraq war.

The official Saudi Press Agency, reacting to the Tehran radio report, quoted a "responsible source" as saying: "The kingdom did not undertake any commitment to convince Iraq to comply with new (OPEC) production quotas. In Geneva, the

Saudi delegation has made it clear beyond any doubt that the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not vote for any resolution that would affect the Iraqi government directly or indirectly."

The kingdom's delegation also refused to take part in any decision by the organisation referring to any future meeting to discuss Iraq's refusal to abide by the OPEC resolution. In making this clear, the kingdom hopes the government of brotherly Iraq will do what it deems necessary to stabilise oil price in world markets in a way ensuring the interests of all," the agency said.

Iraq rejected its OPEC quota of 1.466 million b/d, insisting it wanted a quota at least equal to Iran's.

Iraq's Oil Minister Qassem Ahmad Taji said on his return from Geneva the OPEC cutbacks were not binding on Baghdad.

He said the OPEC plan lacked objective measures, was much less than Iraq's current quota and harmed its revenues "so it cannot be accepted by us."

Iraq pumps some of its oil through a Saudi pipeline to the Red Sea port of Yanbu for export.

However, even taken together, the plans fall short of the Japanese "Marshall plan" advocated by some commentators, including

former foreign minister Saburo Okhita.

The finance ministry has rejected calls for an aid programme modelled on that provided by the United States after World War II, saying that the government does not have the money.

Instead, it has explored ways of stimulating the private sector to use the money it has earned on exports for the developing world.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 23, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The day requires that you give more than usual thought to specific plans you have. Errors or mistakes could easily creep into various matters that need attention.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) It is important that you are most careful in handling your responsibilities. Make preparations for the holidays.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Count the cost well for holiday preparations and don't go overboard with them. Think logically.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Home situations could upset you, if you allow this, so keep the holiday spirit alive and well.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take care you do not lose anything while out shopping. Listen carefully to a friend's complaint.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Use care in handling finances or property today and avoid losses that could be big. Make sure you drive with care.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You could be highly discontented with some personal mistake you have made, but it is easily rectifiable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are sick and tired of some situation that has long bothered you, but be patient a little longer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Although a good friend may not agree with a personal matter you are handling, listen carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Not a good day to make any changes in your activities. Handle some civic affair carefully.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study further into that enterprise that interests you before you put it in operation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You had better postpone that talk with your mate. Be sure to keep any promises you have made.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) All kinds of conditions arise now that can depress you if you jump to hasty conclusions. Listen to others.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will get at the core of any situation or subject and study all the details connected with it so that right action can be taken later. Give a good education that will improve both mental and physical abilities. Give valuable guidance and musical training to your child.

THE Daily Crossword by Mary Coo Whitten

ACROSS

- 1 Afr. republic
- 5 Special cop
- 9 Bar. river
- 13 Angel's name
- 14 Walking (happy)
- 16 Limestone
- 17 Like a bump on —
- 18 Family circle member
- 19 Book. pray
- 20 Echo
- 22 With SEA, Degeesth. libation
- 24 Cockroach
- 26 Sun disk
- 27 Cow?
- 31 Killer whale
- 34 O'Hare abbr.
- 35 Part of Vietnam
- 37 Pick up an apple
- 39 Peppercorn
- 41 Fr. congress
- 43 Dumb
- 44 Farwell FH
- 46 Bank
- 48 Wind instrument for short
- 49 Impala kin
- 51 Improbable
- 53 "— of Wine and Roses"
- 55 SL —'s fire
- 56 See 22A
- 60 Wash. city
- 64 Baseball family name
- 65 Direction
- 67 Lyric works
- 68 Emigrants
- 69 Music theorist
- 70 Fan
- 71 Peppercorn
- 72 Dribbble
- 73 Auto. mean of
- 74

DOWN

- 1 Head
- 2 Mignon
- 3 Cockney
- 4 Mark a book
- 5 Restrictive street sign
- 6 Dancer. letter
- 7 Book holder
- 8 Eyelashes
- 9 Highlighted
- 10 Silk mask
- 11 Sonny
- 12 White pret.
- 15 Night-hood
- 21 Neighborhood
- 23 Deborah or Walter
- 25 "King Solomon's"
- 27 Case room
- 28 Self-esteem
- 29 Thin as —
- 30 Afr. language
- 32 Win by —
- 33 Of an ecological series
- 35 Fr. river
- 38 Cerecatus
- 40 Fr. agent
- 42 Fox hunt cries
- 43 Two-load cloth
- 47 Kind of cotton
- 50 "We 1 Lay —"
- 52 Indiana town
- 54 SEA member
- 55 Noddy birds
- 57 Olive genus
- 58 Cry
- 59 Eastern camel
- 61 Pagan deity
- 62 "We 1 Lay —"
- 63 Involves
- 65 Football
- 66 score: abbr.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. AFRICA
5. SPECIAL
9. BAR
13. ANGEL
14. WALKING
16. LIMESTONE
17. BUMP
18. FAMILY
19. PRAY
20. ECHO
22. SEA
24. COCKROACH
26. SUN
27. COW
31. WHALE
34. O'HARE
35. VIETNAM
37. APPLE
39. PEPPER
41. CONGRESS
43. DUMB
44. FARWELL
46. BANK
48. WIND
49. IMPALA
51. IMPROBABLE
53. WINE
55. SL
56. WASH
60. WASH
64. BASEBALL
65. DIRECTION
67. LYRIC
68. EMIGRANTS
69. MUSIC
70. FAN
71. PEPPER
72. DRIBBLE
73. AUTO
- 74.

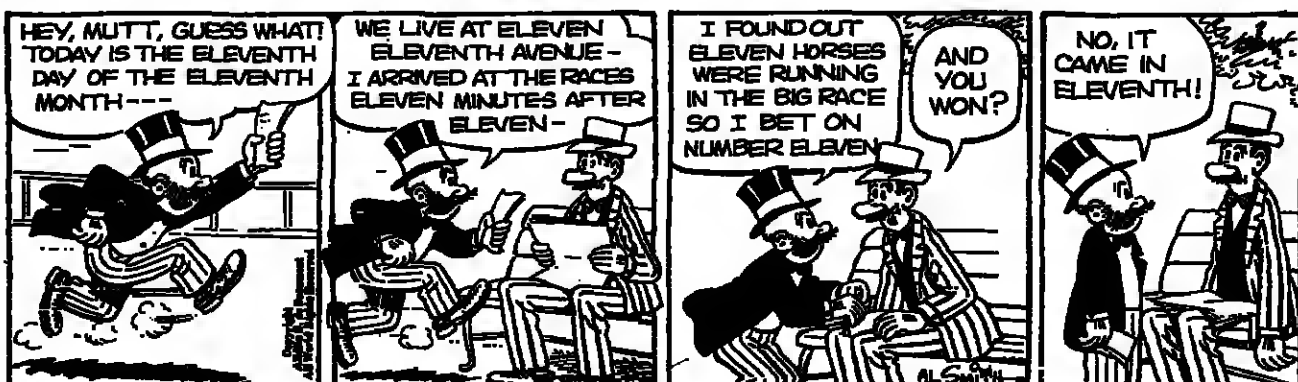
DOWN

1. HEAD
2. MIGNON
3. COCKNEY
4. MARK
5. RESTRICTIVE
6. DANCER
7. BOOK
8. EYELASHES
9. HIGHLIGHTED
10. SILK
11. SONNY
12. WHITE
15. NIGHT
21. NEIGHBOOD
23. DEBORAH
25. KING
27. CASE
28. SELF
29. THIN
30. AFRICAN
32. WIN
33. OF
35. FRENCH
38. CEREBRUM
40. FRENCH
42. FOX
43. TWO
47. KIND
50. WE
52. INDIANA
54. SEA
55. NODDY
57. OLIVE
58. CRY
59. EASTERN
61. PAGAN
62. WE
63. INVOLVES
65. FOOTBALL
66. SCORE

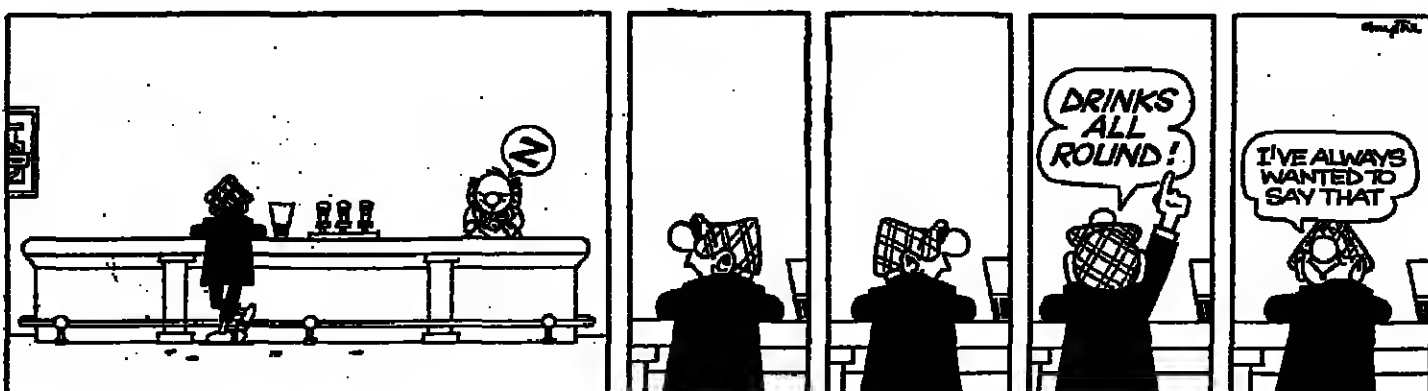
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SNAIE

FARCS

TROIGE

SNIPPOO

WHAT SHE SAID WHEN THE CHIMNEY SWEEP PROPOSED MARRIAGE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: YOU "O O O O" ME "O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELATE POACH BUMPER DEVICE

Answer: What you can buy when there's a soil sale—DIRT CHEAP

Shanghai protesters push through police lines despite warnings

SHANGHAI, China (Agencies) — Several hundred students pushed through police lines and marched down Shanghai's main street Monday while loudspeakers blared official warnings against the demonstrations.

The students squeezed out of People's Square and set off down Nanking Road in the direction of City Hall in the first organised action of the day.

An estimated 15,000 onlookers crowded around the square and jammed an overhead bridge to watch the demonstrators.

Tens of thousands of Shanghai students staged pro-democracy rallies in Shanghai over the weekend in the largest demonstrations in China in a decade.

On Monday, with student ranks thinning, city authorities posted orders saying that gathering in groups without police permission was not allowed.

Loudspeakers on the People's Congress building in the square

delivered the same message. The local media reported the demonstrations Monday for the first time, chastising the students for disrupting the city and warning of "reactionaries" among them who were taking advantage of the situation.

Students have been demanding more participation in local government and better living conditions in a half-dozen other Chinese cities this month.

The Chinese government led by Deng Xiaoping has committed itself to gradual democratisation and encouraged freedom of expression. Authorities had said the students have a constitutional right to demonstrate, but their patience appeared to be wearing out on Monday.

People using loudspeakers told the crowd: "Because it is a safety hazard when people gather and criminals may take advantage of the chaotic situation, police must be informed of all demonstrations before they take place."

The banner-waving students pushed their way through a double line of police and onlookers onto Nanking Road, the main commercial centre, and headed toward City Hall, about 1.5 kilometres away.

It was not known whether they had obtained police permission for their march, but police made no effort to drive them back into the square.

The demonstrations generally have been peaceful, although police and students have exchanged accusations of violent outbursts.

Students claimed that 200 people were detained Friday and up to 40 beaten by police on Saturday. Authorities said 31 police were assaulted and the People's Congress building was

stormed on Friday.

Each side has denied the charges made against it.

Many of the students marched Monday behind banners of Shanghai University, Shanghai Drama Institute and Shanghai Arts Institute. Students said their companions from Jiaotong and Fudan universities, who led the weekend demonstrations, had their banners confiscated and were under surveillance as they tried to leave their campuses.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency on Monday criticised the protests, saying a small number of students were committing illegal actions that "will affect social stability and unity, affect the progress of the country's modernisation programme and affect the students' study."

It said some people, including those writing inflammatory and illegal "big character" posters, were "taking advantage of the patriotic zeal of the students and their longings for democracy and freedom."

Koreans hold behind-scene talks on reforms

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

With the National Assembly recessed and schools dismissed for the holidays, behind-the-scenes meetings have replaced the demonstrations that flared for much of the year over proposed constitutional reforms.

Local newspapers have predicted that the lull in political confrontations and often violent street clashes is likely to continue through the end of January, when Koreans observe the Lunar New Year.

Most political leaders, however, are busier than before with party activities, closed-door meetings and private talks with members of other parties or factions.

Newspapers have reported that the country's two major political parties are concentrating on building their ranks and securing support from minority groups to prepare for a showdown on constitutional amendments, expected sometime before April.

The parties have been divided over how to rewrite the constitution. Neither has the two-thirds majority in the National Assembly needed to pass a constitutional bill.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) of President Chun Doo-hwan has proposed a parliamentary cabinet system headed by a powerful prime minister, while the opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) has called for a president to be elected by popular vote.

Through months of negotiations, neither side has shown signs of compromise. Constitutional changes must be made in time for elections to choose a successor to Mr. Chun, whose term expires in Feb. 1988.

Before the assembly adjourned on Dec. 18, the only agreement reached was to extend a special committee on constitutional reform until sometime next year.

As time was running out for the ad hoc committee early in December, ruling party sources hinted that the party might force a vote showdown as early as February, but it subsequently withdrew the plan.

Infant 'doing better' after third liver transplant

CHICAGO (AP) — A 7-month-old girl who underwent her third liver transplant in less than a month was in critical but stable condition Monday, and "doing a little bit better," according to a hospital spokeswoman.

Doctors who implanted a new liver Sunday in Meghann Laroco found clots in the veins of the second liver, said Anne Duggan, of the University of Chicago Hospitals-Wyler Children's Centre.

The second liver came from a newborn baby.

When the third liver was implanted, Meghann's condition began to show improvement, Ms. Duggan said. That liver was from an older baby.

Doctors won't know for up to a week how well the liver will do, she said.

Violence spreads to new areas of Goa

BOMBAY (R) — About 900 para-military police reinforcements were deployed Monday in Goa as protests against a language policy spread to new areas of the western Indian port city, police said.

They told Reuters by telephone from Goa capital Panjim that the additional para-military men had to use boats on inland waterways, circle around barricaded roads and take up positions in troubled areas this morning.

But the reinforcements could not prevent demonstrators from putting up road blockades in northern Goa for the first time in the current protests and cutting off Panjim, they added.

They said demonstrators continued to go on the rampage in the southern and southwestern parts of Goa, setting ablaze a bus station and two milk shops in Vasco and Margao.

The army was called out in the town of Margao after about 3,500 Konkani-speaking demonstrators sacked the home of the territory's Agriculture Minister, Francisco Sardinha, and sabotage blacked out its capital, Panjim.

The troops marched into Margao in a show of force for the first time in the territory since 1961 when the army was sent there to take over the enclave from Portuguese rule.

About 300 additional para-military policemen were ordered into Goa late Sunday night to control thousands of demonstrators carrying out a violent campaign to press demands for the territory to be elevated to full statehood and for their Konkani tongue to be made its official language.

Goa now has a lesser "union territory" status in the country's federal system of government, which comprises 24 states.

Two people died Sunday in pitched battles between supporters of Konkani and rival Marathi speakers. On Friday, police shot dead a Konkani supporter manning a road barricade.

Konkani supporters have paralysed road, rail and air traffic to force a boycott of celebrations of India's takeover of the former Portuguese enclave 25 years ago.

Demonstrators burned buses, stoned vehicles and attacked a hotel in the resort town as Konkani leaders considered appealing to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to settle their demands and warned tourists to leave the territory because of the violence.

The disturbances have stranded tourists in parts of the territory, which is popular among foreigners for its palm-fringed beaches and Mediterranean-style atmosphere.

Demonstrations and counter-demonstrations by rival groups in favour of Konkani and Marathi have rocked Goa since last May and divided its population of more than one million.

Konkani is spoken mainly by native Goa Christians and Hindus residing along the coast, while Marathi, the language of neighbouring Maharashtra state, is spoken in the hinterland and by Hindu immigrants.

Konkani supporters, fearing Goa's absorption by Maharashtra, last month mounted a campaign to boycott official anniversary celebrations to press their demands.

He said he had trained as a commando in Israel, served in "counter-terrorism" in South Africa, Angola and El Salvador and was a commander of Miskito Indian Forces in Honduras.

Hall described how he arrived in Nicaragua with only high school Spanish, asked a cab driver to take him to the Punta Huete Air Base and bluffed his way in with a false press pass.

"There's supposedly a big Soviet buildup, Cubans are supposed to be in the area. My main concern was to find out what they're doing new in construction... what's underneath covered buildings," Hall said.

He said he was arrested taking pictures from the back of the cab.

Hall also said that he had been in contact with the private aid network supplying U.S.-backed Nicaraguan "contra" guerrillas.

Hall told CBS his story could be checked out with two retired U.S. naval officers — Capt. William Hamilton and Commander Francis Fane. The television network said both Hamilton and Fane said they had encouraged Hall to organise an American foreign legion.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said that Hall, arrested last week, was not a spy but "mentally unbalanced."

Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge told CBS that Hall was "probably linked with organisations that in their turn are linked to the U.S. government."

"I think Mr. Hall is trying to create a certain image for the purpose of regaining his freedom and to try and hide his true intentions here."

Since October, opposition sources estimate that more than 100 people have been fined by misdemeanor courts for political offences — and the mounting fines are starting to hurt.

Former Solidarity underground leader Zbigniew Bujak appealed to Western trade unions for donations after more than 40 people were each fined 50,000 zlotys for taking part in a Dec. 16 demonstration in Katowice commemorating the anniversary of the 1981 martial law killing of nine striking coal miners.

Some 35 members of a banned peace group have been assessed fines totalling more than 1.5 million zlotys (\$7,500) for staging demonstrations in four cities.

It's quite a burdensome repression for our members, who are mainly students or young workers with low earnings," said Jacek Czaputowicz, a founder of the Freedom and Peace Movement. "It will certainly have a limiting and discouraging effect on actions."

But Mr. Romaszewski said the opposition will adapt to the authorities' new tactics.

"I don't think this kind of repression can be more effective than imprisonment in reducing activities," he said. "It's obvious that underground publishers will now start using taxis, official cars or old wrecks."

Mozambican rebels free last foreign captives

LISBON (R) — Mozambican

right-wing rebels Monday freed their last remaining foreign captives in a Christmas goodwill gesture, a rebel spokesman said.

The Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) spokesman in Lisbon told Reuters the group of eight were released early Monday morning at Zobue on Mozambique's frontier with Malawi in the remote north-west province of Tete.

They were met by officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who took them to Blantyre in Malawi.

The group included a Briton, a West German and his wife and daughter and four Portuguese, three of them Jesuit missionaries.

The eight had been captured during MNR attacks in and around Ulongue in Tete province last month.

Last Wednesday, 57 foreign captives, most of them Portuguese, were released by MNR into Malawi from Mozambique's North Zambesia province.

MNR leader Afonso Dhlakama had ordered the unconditional release of all of MNR's foreign captives as a Christmas goodwill gesture. The group has fought Mozambique's Marxist government almost since the country's independence from Portugal in 1975.

The release of the last eight captives had been twice postponed, once last Wednesday because of a misunderstanding with Red Cross officials over the handover point and the second time last Friday because of bad weather, the MNR spokesman said.

He said the eight were: Britain Ian Robertson, West German Robert Kosskamp, his Peruvian wife Maria Isabel Torres Munoz and their two-year-old daughter Isabel, Portuguese technician Antonio Baco and three Portuguese Jesuit missionaries, Fathers Antonio Reis and Joaquim Barata and Brother Jose Carvalho Lima.

The rebels, fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government for a separate homeland for minority Tamils, freed two soldiers on Dec. 19 after two months' captivity. The army simultaneously freed two guerrillas but denied it was swap.

On the same day, Indian special envoys Natwar Singh and Paliappan Chidambaram left Colombo for New Delhi after failing to agree on a Sri Lankan government proposal to set up provincial councils in the east of the island.

The scheme would split the eastern province into three areas for Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

The rebels have rejected the idea because it failed to satisfy Tamil demands to merge the northern and eastern provinces to form a separate homeland.

A senior official here told Reuters the Indian envoys last week suggested a Sinhalese-dominated area in the east be annexed to nearby Uva province in the west and leave remaining areas in the east as one entity with its own ruling council.

"This we rejected. It's a virtual merger. In effect, the east would be cleared of the Sinhalese 'population', the official said.

The two ministers instead were told that these matters can be resolved if there was direct dialogue and if New Delhi could apply pressure on the Tamil Nadu state to disband the bases in Madras and to persuade the rebels to talk directly to the government," he added.

Sri Lankan separatist leaders have been based in the south Indian city of Madras since 1983.

India managed to get the government to hold direct talks with militant and moderate Tamil rebels in the Bhutan capital of Thimpu in August, 1985, but the discussions ended with a walk-out by the Tamils.

A policeman testified that Frankiewicz intended to use the car to transport the illegal calendars because he was carrying his car keys and driver's licence.

"I've been arrested several times so far, but this is simply a

Voyager crew aims to end flight today

MOJAVE, California (AP) — Voyager headed out of the Caribbean Monday toward early completion of its historic unrefuelled global flight, but team members say head winds and uncertain fuel reserves could mean finishing with the gauge reading "empty."

"Since we've had tail winds all around the hemisphere, we thought it was proper we ought to give them a few head winds before they ended the flight for something to remember," Chief Meteorologist Len Snellman said Sunday.

Unfavourable winds up to 15 knots — the first significant head winds of the journey — were expected all the way up the Pacific coast.

Voyager, expected to complete its non-stop, unrefuelled flight about dawn Tuesday, was headed out of the Western Caribbean Sea early Monday with 36,545 kilometres behind it and about 3,862 kilometres to go to reach Edwards Air Force Base. The landing initially had been expected Wednesday afternoon.

Voyager's exact position won't be disclosed for the remainder of its flight because support crews want to discourage curious pilots from flying near the craft, said project spokesman Bob Brubaker.

Dick Rutan, 48, was at the controls after resting for several hours while Jeana Yeager, 34, flew the plane.

From the performance standpoint, a head wind is just murder," said Burt Rutan, 43, designer of the Voyager and brother of Dick Rutan. A day of head wind will "wipe out three full days of tail wind" in fuel economy, he said.

Burt Rutan and Voyager's technical team have been trying to determine how much fuel has been used since it became obvious that usage logs were in error. Twice the crew was able to draw fuel from tanks that should have been empty.

Rutan said Sunday he believes fuel has been flowing back through a gauge that measures fuel flow but can't distinguish the direction of the flow.

Party legislators' cars outside the palace with rocks and crowbars.

Interior Vice Minister Raul Lago told reporters riot police eventually dispersed the crowd, which fought back with stones. He said several police were hurt, but gave no details. He said he did not know if there were arrests.

One noisy group of protesters gathered outside the suburban house of army Lt.-Col. Manuel Cordero, one of several officials facing complaints of rights violations. Col. Cordero stepped out of his front door and fired a machine gun into the air to disperse the group, the leftist-oriented station "La Radio" of Montevideo reported.

Witnesses said another army Lieutenant Colonel Jose Nino Gavazzo, stood outside his house with a machine gun but did not fire it.

Col. Gavazzo was scheduled to appear at the Monday morning court hearing to face charges in the illegal arrest of journalist Eduardo Rodriguez Larreta, who was abducted in 1976 in neighbouring Argentina and later transferred to an Uruguayan detention centre before eventually being freed.

In the House of Deputies, the violence broke out when deputies belonging to the Broad Front, a coalition of leftist parties, shouted insults at Elias Porras as he spoke in favour of the legislation.

Porras is a member of the centre-left National Party, most of whose members back the bill along with Mr. Sanguinetti's centrist Colorado Party.

Another National Party member, Jorge Machuca, rushed angrily into the Broad Front section of the house, and legislators began trading punches. In all, about 20 lawmakers entered the fray before a 30-minute recess was called.

An estimated 2,500 leftist demonstrators opposed to the amnesty stoned police vans and smashed Colorado and National

Sri Lanka wants direct talks with Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka

wants direct talks with Tamil separatists to solve the island's ethnic conflict following inconclusive discussions involving India, a national Security Ministry spokesman said Monday.

He told Reuters an exchange of prisoners by rebel guerrillas and the military last week showed that both sides could resolve internal problems without resorting to third party.

"Sri Lanka is very appreciative of the role played by India but at the same time, sadly though, India's efforts so far proved unsuccessful," he said.

"In such an event, the thinking is whether the Sri Lankan government should now pursue other measures, such as directly talking to the rebels, which was used in the release of the two soldiers," he added.

The rebels, fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government for a separate homeland for minority Tamils, freed two soldiers on Dec. 19 after two months' captivity. The army simultaneously freed two guerrillas but denied it was swap.

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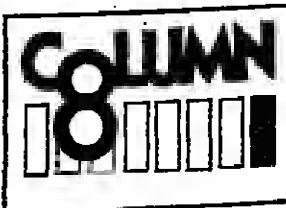
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Priceless book shrine found in Ireland

DUBLIN (R) — A priceless eighth century book shrine has been found at the bottom of an Irish lake and art historians say it is an Irish national treasure ranking with the lavishly illustrated medieval Book of Kells. The shrine was displayed at a weekend press conference by Arts Minister Ted Nealon who said it was "of considerable importance and will contribute a great deal towards achieving an understanding of the cultural history of early medieval Ireland."

The shrine, described as extremely fragile, housed a copy of the gospels and is lavishly decorated with an embossed cross. "A suitable award has been paid to the finders who wish to remain anonymous," Mr. Nealon said.

Breakfast TV launched in Italy

ROME (R) — Breakfast television was launched in Italy Monday morning with a four and a half hour programme of news, music, features and interviews. Television researchers say there are about 18 million potential morning viewers among housewives, the retired and the unemployed. Research shows only 1.6 per cent of Italians eat breakfast as a family. Most adults take a quick coffee in a local bar while on their way to work.

AIDS test planned in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea plans to test about 12,000 employees of restaurants and entertainment places for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs said Monday. Ministry officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said businesses and others working in "special" entertainment places also would be subject to blood tests next year. They declined to elaborate, but there were reports that some bar and club employees in areas frequented by Americans had been checked. About 41,000 American troops are stationed in South Korea. Officials say no AIDS cases have been found in South Korea, although there were reports a Korean construction worker suspected of having symptoms of the disease was repatriated from Saudi Arabia early this year. There has been no official word on whether he had AIDS.

Truck driver held in Iran after drug find

TEHRAN (R) — A truck driver was arrested by gendarmes who found 150 kilograms of heroin hidden in his vehicle in south western Iran, Kayhan newspaper has said. It said the driver had planned to drive from Zahedan, near the Pakistani border, to Urumieh, near Turkey in the north west. In another incident, Ettelaat newspaper said members of a 40-man ring of dealers, arrested after a find of 200 kilograms of drugs in the central province of Yazd, had confessed to selling more than four tonnes of narcotics.

Friend of Boy George dies of drug overdose

LONDON (AP) — A 20-year-old man died Sunday of a suspected drug overdose, one day after he was arrested with pop singer Boy George in connection with a possible drug offence, police said.

Mark Golding was declared dead on arrival after he was rushed to St. Mary's Hospital in Paddington, Scotland Yard said. An autopsy has not been arranged, but police sources said it was believed Golding died from an overdose of methadone, a heroin substitute.

"There is no suggestion of foul play," a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said. Scotland Yard said Boy George, the flamboyant British pop singer who underwent treatment for heroin addiction last summer, was at his own home in Hampstead several kilometres from the Paddington apartment where Golding was found. Police sources said the apartment belonged to Mark Batham, 25, who also was arrested early Saturday with Boy George and Golding while the three were walking home from an all-night party.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠103 ♣QJ7652 ♦863 ♣96
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2♦ Pass 2NT Pass
3NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠103 ♣96 ♦863 ♣QJ7652
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2♦ Pass 2NT Pass
3NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ107 ♣3 ♦AK852 ♣9J7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1♥ 2♦ ?
What do you do now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠1063 ♣K9 ♣Q1064 ♦A876
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 2♦ Pass
3♦ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J106 ♣K9832 ♣Q72 ♦84
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ Double Pass 1♥
Pass 1NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ83 ♣96 ♣K1064 ♦KQJ5
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1♥ Double Pass Pass
Pass ?
What is your opening lead?

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذه هي الحل" (This is the solution).